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THE TIGER



AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

JULY, 1967.



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THE TIGER & SPHINX

The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

JULY, 1967.

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All contributions for "THE TIGER AND SPHINX" should be typewritten on one side of the paper only. If the manuscript, photograph, etc., is to be returned, the fact should be stated and a stamped, addressed envelope enclosed. The name of the sender should be included, not necessarily for publication, but for the satisfaction of the Editor. Contributions should be addressed to: The Editor, "THE TIGER AND SPHINX," Regimental Headquarters, The Gordon Highlanders, Aberdeen, and should arrive not later than 15th January, May and September.

Photographs and sketches should be in black and white and on a reasonably large scale. Distinctness of detail is essential to secure good reproduction. It is most important that all illustrations are supplied with a complete title. In the case of groups, all the names should be given; without this, much of the interest in the illustration is lost. Photographer's permission for reproduction should be obtained before submission of photographs and a note of the fact stated.

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EDITORIAL

A subject which will be uppermost in the minds of many readers is the recent announcement outlining the plans for the re-organisation of the Regular Army. This left so many questions unanswered that the volume of rumours, particularly as to its ultimate effect on Regiments of Infantry, is unabated, and indecision in Whitehall is having its usual results.

Much could be written on this subject though whether it should be done in a Regimental Journal is another matter. The next chapter in the story may not be long delayed and we hope to be in a position to enlarge on this theme in the November 1967 issue.

Regimental Council

Two meetings of the newly constituted Regimental Council have already been held under the Presidency of the Colonel of the Regiment and there will be a third before the end of the year.

One of the problems exercising their minds is the future of Regimental Headquarters whose status and composition seems likely to be affected at some stage in any forthcoming changes. Whatever these may be everything possible will be done to retain, in Aberdeen, a fitting meeting place for Gordon Highlanders.

Christmas Card

By a recent decision of the Regimental Council a change is being made in the design of the Christmas Card.

In future this will consist of a plain card, without inset, of the usual quality of coated paper. The Regimental Crest will be die-stamped in gold on the front and inside the front cover there will be a message of Christmas and New Year Greetings in black. The inside of the back cover will be blank so that the card can be used plain or with an illustration of the senders' choice.

The "official" illustration for this year will be a reproduction in colour of the ceremony at Hope-toun House in July 1966 when the Marquis of Linlithgow handed over the Regimental Colour of the 92nd which was carried at Waterloo.

It has not been possible to obtain firm estimates in time to quote the price in this issue of the Journal. Orders should be addressed to Regimental Headquarters stating (a) the number of cards with envelopes required and (b) the number of "official" illustrations required. Accounts will follow the despatch of each order with the actual postage added.

By making a bulk purchase of plain cards, both vertical and oblong, it is hoped to reduce the price and in future years to provide a selection of coloured illustrations from which a choice may be made.

PERSONS AND PLACES

"Way back in March, although when once more faced with this penitential production it may seem to you, as it does to us, like yesterday, we made mention of our former Druid, Roy Liddell.

Hardly were the words off our Yard-o-Lead, before he descended on us in person, accompanied by Major George Slater, to pay us a very welcome visit although, sadly, one of farewell.

Roy then set off for a charge rather different from those some of us experienced, in Cyprus. He is now "Meenister" of a Kirk in Nicosia, but not, we gather, wearing a factory chimney hat and bomb-concealing beard.

As might be expected, he is a faithful correspondent and retains all his interest in the past and present doings of the Regiment. We are sure, therefore, that he will not mind our printing excerpts from some of his letters, which will be full of significance to those who served with the 1st Battalion in "Cyprus '55/'66". We would not presume to precis his inimitable prose:—

19/5/67 . . . "I have purchased a car, a Triumph Herald, and the first place I went to in it was the Military Cemetery, where I spent an hour. It is beautifully looked after, being under the care of the Imperial War Graves Commission, and each grave has flowers growing on it, even those where the bodies have been exhumed, and in which case the space is still there although the headstone has been removed. Of the 16 Gordons buried in the cemetery, only the bodies of Bruce Kynoch and his soldier-servant Pte Smith, have been taken away. I must go and look for the grave of Mr.

Bogdanovitch in the English Cemetery at Nicosia. Yesterday I took a trip I had long looked forward to. I drove in the morning to Xeros and found that our old camp again had tents on it, and was occupied by a Group (as it is called) of the Southern Irish Army, serving with the United Nations. The officers were most kind, and invited me to lunch in their mess, which is in the Sleeps' former house. They were quite interested to hear about the doings of the Gordon in 1955/56. Their Commanding Officer, by the way, is called Colonel Beary—a name that his soldiers no doubt relish to the full. The chaplain, a Roman Catholic naturally, was very helpful and before lunch not only showed me around the camp, but accompanied me on a drive to Lefka, Skouriotissa, and Evrychou. (Some other day I shall go to Kakopetria, Platres etc.). We called at the C.M.C. Club and saw Mr. Black, who told me that the Sleeps had returned to Cyprus after a year or two at home. I spoke to Fred (Sleep) by telephone, and after lunch he took me to his house at Mavrovouni. Mr. Hendriks retired long ago, and Mr. Burgess took his place as manager. Mr. O'Meara died, and his wife returned to Australia. Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan, who used to be at the Government farm at Morphou, are now living in the Isle of Man."

23/5/57 . . . "Yesterday I had been at the Cyprus Museum, which is full of antiquities ranging from the Stone Age to the Roman Period, and today I decided to see something much more modern,

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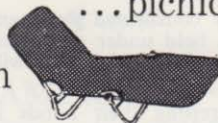
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and went accordingly to the so-called Cyprus Struggle Museum, beside the Archbishop's Palace in the Old City. I was the only visitor at the time, and spent an hour looking at the exhibits, which consist mostly of the personal possessions of the 'heroes'—'Hero Charalambous Mouskos'—'Hero Markos Drakos' and so on—and the weapons used by them. There is even a special room made as a shrine in their memory, and another has a gallows in commemoration of those who were hanged. There are lots of flags and printed notices and photographs, some of the photographs of dead heroes being particularly grisly. The labels are in Greek and English, and the English is sometimes illiterate. The exhibit I specially want to mention caused me much amusement. It was a length of thick rusty-looking chain labelled thus:—

'AN IRON CHAIN OF THE TYPE USED BY THE NOTORIOUS ENGLISH TORTURERS ODRISKOL, LEANCH, AND GORDONS, TO TORTURE THE E.O.K.A. FREEDOM FIGHTERS KORONITES AND NICOLAOU'. Entrance to the museum was free. There were various pamphlets for sale about the struggle for Freedom but I did not buy any. The attendant asked me to sign the visitors' book as I left, but I declined."

Roy's address, incidentally, is:—
The Reverend R. Liddell, M.A., B.D., FSA Scot,
46 Passiades Street,
Nicosia, CYPRUS.

*

Cyprus seems to figure fairly frequently this time in the collection of annotated Menu Cards, Bus Tickets, Grocer's Bills and occasional portions of shirt-front that comprise our filing system.

Also in the last issue we were wishing Lieutenant Colonel George Elsmie a speedy recovery from the effects of his tiresome hip operation. This, we are pleased to report, appears to have been achieved and not, as one might have feared, terminated, by a convalescent visit to our former stamping ground, where he and Jill were the guests of well-remembered and much-missed friends of many of us.

Despite having on occasions to circumambulate Markos Drakos Statue, largely because it is in the middle of the road, the Colonel's disguise appears to have remained impenetrable.

Or perhaps we should now quote from the Travel Brochure which we ought obviously to have been carrying in front of us in lieu of a wicker shield when last visiting that delectable land: — "The moment a visitor sets foot on the Cyprus soil he is considered as a sacred person. No other country can rival Cyprus in hospitality which started from thousand years ago as a divine command and still flourishes strongly today."

*

And before leaving that particular subject, we wonder in passing whether the name and description of a character, Costas, recently convicted in London of selling weapons to another chap subsequently convicted of shooting policemen struck a chord in any reader's memory?

Recently we paid a farewell visit to Major Dick and Bin Burge, sitting in precarious state on tea chests in their Redford Place Quarter, by then an isolated Highland outpost besieged on all sides by ravaging Redcoat Guards. To both "D" and "B" we wish every success in the former's new job with "The Intelligence".

It is not **only** to delay the onset of writer's cramp that we once more reproduce a letter, written this time to Major Burge, by ex-Corporal Ronnie Hilton, whom a number of you may have seen when he appeared on television in "The Good Old Days":—

"41 The Drive,
LEEDS. 8,
YORKS.

3rd May 1967.

Dear Major Burge,

Very many thanks for your letter of the 26th April and naturally, I am delighted to read, that you enjoyed my recent television show so much, in 'The Good Old Days'.

I have no objection whatsoever, to you using something about me, in your regimental magazine, in fact, I should be most honoured if you would do so.

First however, I should tell you that of the five years which I served in the Army, only the last eighteen months in the service were with the Gordon Highlanders, but, I shall start from the beginning.



Ronnie Hilton.

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I joined the Army in 1942, at the age of sixteen having, as they say, stated a falsehood regarding my age, but nevertheless, this came to light later. I went first into the Cameron Highlanders, for my training at Fort George and was then transferred to the 10th Batt. H.L.I. in the 15th Scottish Div., and went with them to France about eight days after D Day. During the action in Normandy, it was discovered, through one of my brothers being wounded, that I was, in fact, at that time, not of age to be in action and was sent back to the U.K. However, within about two months, I was back in action, now being of age, and was posted to the 6th Batt. H.L.I. in the 52nd Mountain Div., with whom I served until just after the end of the War in Germany and just about Christmas time, 1946, I was transferred to the 1st Batt. of the Gordons, at Essen in Germany, where I was for about the first six months provost corporal in the Regimental Police and then was put on the staff of the Officers Mess, mostly in charge of the bar. This is probably where I obtained my drinking education.

I was demobbed from the Gordons in June 1947 and incidentally, did a couple of songs on occasion, with the regimental band on their visits to our Battalion in Germany.

You will gather from all this therefore, that I did not serve with the Second Batt.

I am afraid that, the only photographs available is one which I have enclosed from a magazine, but, I doubt, if this will reproduce, plus, a current give-away photograph, which may be of some use.

I would very much appreciate your sending me a copy of the magazine, when it is published.

Thank you for your interest and you may be pleased to know, since the T.V. show I received many requests during my cabaret performances to sing 'A Gordon for me'.

Yours very sincerely,
RONNIE HILTON.

(Inverness and Glasgow Regimental Papers,
please copy!)

*

Whilst on the subject of visiting, a recent marathon tour of applicants for commissions or enlistment and/or their parents brought us in contact with a number of persons of whom readers may like to have news. These included Major David and Rosemary Nunneley at Stroud, both of whom were in excellent and most hospitable form. David has made a remarkable recovery from a serious lung operation some years ago and we are glad to note his application to attend the Retreat on the Horse Guards Parade on the 10th of July. Major Jimmy Dunlop, who inhabits a salubrious spot known as Osgood's Gully in Berkshire is another who may be seen at the same function. His next door neighbours are Major Jack Bindley and Barbara, who for some reason left for Spain the day after we called. At nearby Pangbourne young Lachlan Rhodes, nephew of Major Ran Ogilvie is nursing his early-acquired Army Scholarship as an aspirant for the Regiment and entry to Sandhurst in about a year's time. And not far removed, we have just re-discovered, there broods in Oxenford "Bumble" Rome. These are only a few, let us add, of the Gordon Settlers in this wild southern territory.

This, as one of our now few Acquaintances recently remarked, seems to have been The Year of The Short Knives. Amongst the latest of our members to be subjected to Surgical Intervention has been Lieutenant Colonel Tony Duke, who had a throat operation in March. All is well, we are happy to report, and a week or so later he was once again summoning his assorted ducks to Staff Parade in the Easter Ord gloaming and in tones that would have been the envy of the author, whose name momentarily escapes us, of that oddly-entitled book "King Solomon's Ring".

*

As you may, or may not, read in the Notes on the Regimental Museum, Mrs. Madge Chaytor, formerly Mrs. Freddie Bell, recently very kindly presented the Altar Cloth made by Prisoners of War of Torgau Camp in Germany.

This relic we collected a month or so ago from Major Peter Bell and Hilary at The Hall, Thirsk. They too will be seen, we hope, at the Horse Guards on the 10th of July, dependant upon whether the Lord of the Manor, according to his own account, manages to get his suit back from the Cleaners in time. Our guess is that it is in hock in part security for the Water Supply Scheme for that Thriding of Yorkshire to the welfare of which they both so continuously and conscientiously devote their energies.

We don't know if the Sunday post circulates in that particular Scottish Colony, but since the Shire as a whole can be no more than a small enclave or encroachment in the English Appendage we quote, with or without photograph but with permission we hope, an excerpt from that paper which may arouse the neighbourly interest of Bishop Bell of Raffles—and possibly others:—

"I live beside the famous Ilkley Moor (baht 'at) in Yorkshire. So you can imagine my amazement the other evening to hear the skirl of bagpipes coming from the moors. I discovered the piper practising was one of our village policemen. As one who loves to be reminded of holidays in Scotland, I'm delighted to have a Scotsman on my doorstep—Mrs. L. Milburn, 27 Church St., Addingham."

Almost, but not quite, Mrs. M. Let us introduce (above) P.C. Kenneth Pickles, a Yorkshireman, a Member of City of Bradford Pipe Band—and equally proud to be an ex-Gordon Highlander!—Ed.

*

Someone must go out and congratulate, as soon as we can afford it, is Major "Don" McGillivray, MBE, well-known to innumerable London Scots and Gordon Highlanders, who has recently gone bounding up the managerial ladder, despite the rusting-up of his "wooden leg" one happy night some years ago on the steep slope from the NB to (or from?) the Castle Mess in Edinburgh.

Only a short time ago Don left the Bon-Accord Hotel in Market Street, Aberdeen, where Lieutenant Colonel Reggie Lees and the Far East Gordon "POWs" have frequently forgathered under his benevolent eye, to assert his presence and further development plans in "The George" in Bon-Accord Terrace. The former, needless to say, was immediately evident, and the latter becoming so, when



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he was taken from our sight to preside over the Caledonian—"the aul' Callie"—in Union Terrace.

At the beginning of the war, in the days of Tom Adam, Bob Carr, Jim McNeill and similar characters at the Depot, one frequently wondered if one **could** go there again. Immediately after the war, in the days of Johnny Rhodes, Charles Watt, George Elsmie and similar characters with the 4/7th Battalion, one frequently wondered if one **would** go there again. Now, surreptitiously shaking the sawdust off one's shoes, and borrowing a bob, one **must** go there again and find out. A fair bet for recovery of the loan will be that a Gordon tie still goes with a managerial black coat and "strippit breeks".

*

The frenzied activities of the Politicians and Financiers in the recent dismemberment of the Territorial Army—akin to those of amateur Trunk Murderers—have had some curious side-effects. One of these has been that senior Territorial Officers tend to go up and down with the celerity but unpredictability of unskilfully-operated Yo-Yos.

Having only as recently as the last issue congratulated Brigadier Moubray Burnett, TD, on his appointment to Command of 152 (H) Infantry Brigade, we were composing a further brief eulogy on his next-published appointment as Territorial Deputy Commander of the Scottish Northern Zone, or somesuch, when we came across a mendicant-type figure standing on the Kerb at Holburn Junction flogging a trayful of Brigadier's crowns and pips.

So we took them off him on a "sale or return" basis, our idea being that the prospect of obtaining cut-price emblems of authority might spur some of our more capable and ambitious Regular Officers ("Flyers-Old-Boy" in the polished MS phraseology) to even greater efforts.

But what happens next? Drunk with early success and encouraged by the active co-operation of Adeni terrorists, Egyptian Presidents, dissident Yemeni tribesmen and the like, Those at the Top and in Whose Tops there seems to be plenty of Room, busily set about reducing the Regular British Infantry to about the size and effectiveness of a highly fluid, rather than flexible or mobile, Platoon—to be commanded, presumably, by a Non-Commissioned Commissar, preferably Hungarian and non-aligned, except as required.

So while we cannot hold out much hope of a market for second-hand badges, however superior, we nevertheless persist, on your behalf, in congratulating Colonel Moubray and with him the many other stalwart Gordons in the T & AVR on their persistence in their desire to serve their country in pretty perplexing circumstances.

*

And speaking of persistence, congratulations are once again due to ex-Gordon, Pipe Major D. C. Duncan who has so long and so unsuccessfully led the Bucksburn Pipe Band. **They** persist in winning things and one of their latest efforts has been the carrying off of all the prizes, 1st 2nd and 3rd, in the Open Section of the Miniature Pipe Band competition held in March at Huntly.

Pipie Duncan, as we may have mentioned before, happily combines piping and shoemaking in his establishment in Holburn Street. Reeds can be heard

being tested over the last and the heedless enthusiast might well emerge shod with home made Pipe Bags in lieu of suede casuals.

*

In April we had a welcome note from Major Angus Tindall serving with Headquarters "4 Div", or, as their letterhead less familiarly but more awe-inspiringly puts it—"FOURTH DIVISION".

Angus, as you know, is a skier of distinction, and it was not surprising that his letter should enclose an account written by him for the ASA Year Book of the 1967 Haute Route Tour, from Saas Fee to Chamonix, of which he was the Leader.

Unfortunately space does not permit us to reproduce here Führer Tindall's meister saga. You can, however, read it in the Year Book. Suffice to say that it was, one way or another 26,000 feet up, 30,000 feet down and 62 miles as any crow with an efficient altimeter and black box crash-recorder might risk flying. So treble the number you first thought of, add crampons, skis, a delightfully polyglot mixture of Bergaufs, Schussfaherts, Pistes, Crevasses, Gletschers, Gertchers, Apres-ski Chat-ups of the Oiseaux, la scena sanitaria italiana and a number of narsky moments and you get the general idea.

Those of you who, like us, look no further than the Schwebebahn and a series of sissy little Stembogen back to the security of the Schwarz Adler will no doubt join us in saluting our intrepid Skiing Rep with a timorous wave of the Ski-Stock and to hell with the subsequent Sitzschurz.

*

Mine host at the Commercial Hotel in the bustling metropolis of Tarland, Aberdeenshire, is an old acquaintance of the Regiment, one Jack Edmonds, who in the Regiments '51 to '54 tour of Active service in Malaya was driver to Lieutenant Colonel Cordy Simpson, Commanding the 13/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own).

He and your Columnist were one night recently exchanging highly improbable reminiscences across the counter of his cocktail lounge. The Barman who had for some time been silently but sceptically polishing spotless lager glasses was suddenly driven beyond endurance.

"Wis 'ee", he enquired aggressively, addressing us, "iver 'i the furst Gordons afore that?"

And thus we unexpectedly added to our acquaintance with Jock Mackie, who joined in September 1939 and was captured with the 1st Battalion at St Valery. Jock's brother, Sandy Mackie, will be remembered by many former members of the 2nd Battalion. He was soldier servant to then-Captain Owen Steel, but died during the Battalion's tour in Gibraltar.

Jock Mackie told us that during his service he too had held a similar post having been soldier servant to Freddie Colville and was in fact with him when he was killed.

Comparatively, this small district has a high percentage of former and serving Gordon Highlanders and quite apart from the standard of the Edmonds' hospitality, this and other "locals" remain some of the places where the braid Doric, once more common in the Regiment than today, still "soons aa aboot o' a Saiterday necht" and is one well worth a visit by members on safari from the South.

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Coincidences, like birds of a feather, seem to flock together. About the time of these recent revelations there came to us news of the plight of one Jock Mitchell. When we first knew him he was soldier servant, in the 2nd Battalion, to newly-joined 2nd Lieutenant R. G. (Dick) Findlay-Shirras—a fate which we other embryo subalterns could not deny was probably worse than death.

This, of course, was in the days of horses, mules and limbers and ink-baths for subalterns who failed to grow moustaches within twenty-four hours of being ordered to do so by the Senior Subaltern—himself an irresponsible youngster of probably less than fifteen years' service.

Private Mitchell was, however, composed of sterner stuff, largely held together by an even then comprehensive and far-ranging Complex of tattoos. Not only did he survive with distinction a protracted period of Mothering Sundays with his new charge, but also later, as a stalwart Sergeant of the Regiment, the indescribable rigours and privations as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese.

Progress, presumably, and syndicalization, apparently, had lately jeopardized his job and deprived him of his house. We are happy to say, however, that, due to the good offices of Major Toby Irvine of Straloch, he once more has at least the respite of accommodation and employment—and in the Regimental Area.

*

Reference was made, a few paragraphs back, to the fact that the Bydand find work for idle knives to do.

Yet another victim of recent weeks has been—to use the old formal title, "The Respected The Laird of Corennie". Add, Torphins, I spell ALPHA BRAVO, Figures THREE, I spell, ZULU ZULU Figures ZERO ZERO and you may, or may not, have got his distastefully up-to-date postal address. At least your letter may be shoved respectfully under the Gun Room door by a serf who then retires backwards, repeatedly tugging his forelock, bowing and chanting the local hymn:—

"Far wid ony o' hes be
 "Wintin' ane or baith o' 'ee
 "'There's Mairchant, Slater, Jiner tee
 "Bigger, Smiddy, 'Potheecree
 "Plumber, Doctor, Mason—ME
 "Ca's hist ye baak".

Enough, however, of this foolery. We are as glad as all those fictitious characters and many more of Reggie's and Irene's friends, to let you know that "Tansy" survived with éclat, as usual, not only an operation for a hernia but subsequently an infection, due undoubtedly to lack of orally ingested antibiotics.

As many readers will know, he then rose from bed and accompanied the Colonel of the Regiment to his favourite function—The Far East POW Reunion in Aberdeen.

*

We were glad to catch the occasional glimpse recently of a former Colonel of the Regiment, up in these parts for his annual May assault on the Crathes salmon.

When first encountered, Colonel Willie Graham had cornered a willing listener under the stairs at a Cocktail Party and was re-enacting the highlights of the last five days campaign with such gusto and wealth of gesture that he very nearly gaffed and landed a passing waitress bearing a tray of bangers.

Visitors to the Headquarters have of late included, although not in order of appearance, Captain Norman Scott, now with 22 Cadet Training Team based on Fonthill, while awaiting entry next year to the Staff College, on which success he is to be congratulated; Messrs. I. F. Stewart and C. E. Price in May and June respectively on first commissioning from Mons Officer Cadet School; Captain K. J. Laurence, who served and was wounded with the 5/7th Battalion, up on a visit from the South; Major I. D. Martineau, recently resigned and en route, via a comprehensive round of visits, to a training course with Shell; Doctors David Proctor and Donnie Innes, former leeches of the 4/7th and 3rd Battalion, who lent a sanitary air to the proceedings; Colonel Charles Reid who commanded the 8/10th Battalion in 1918 and who very kindly presented to the Regiment an unusual Colour Print of Dargai by Caton Woodville; and Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair-Stevenson, joint author and typist of a 30,000 word history of the Regiment which the former is writing for Hamish Hamilton, Publishers. He is also a grandson of Colonel W. E. Gordon, VC, and godson of the Marquis of Huntly.

*

Contributors to the population explosion during "the period under review", to whom felicitations are due, have included Lieutenant Colonel John Turnbull and Sophie and Captain Peter Graham and Alison. The latter Officer is also to be congratulated on having obtained a nomination for entry to the Australian Staff College in the New Year.

*

Amongst other Honours and Awards we must offer congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) C. D. A. Provo on the award of the OBE in the Birthday Honours; Major Jimmy Williamson on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of the City of Aberdeen; and to Staff Sergeant Somers and Sergeant Macdonald of the 1st Battalion on the award of the LSGCM.

*

We seem to keep tottering back to bedsides, but everyone will be pleased to learn that the Marquis of Huntly is also back on the road again after a spell of incarceration in Foresterhill. Perhaps we were a bit premature in our comments on the light casualty rate amongst the Friday Club.

*

This happy band of mostly retired warriors has continued to support the Headquarters in greater or lesser strength but with unfailing regularity and were joined on one forenoon foray by Major Alistair McInnes, Queen's Own Highlanders, momentarily attached under instruction from the Highland Brigade Depot.

*

News of ex-Gordons in out of the way places reaches us by devious means from time to time. A recent application for enlistment by his son led to the discovery of ex-Private No. 2876804 Jack Rabone, captured with the 1st Battalion at St. Valery, who lives at St. James' Cottage, Haunton, near Tamworth.



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Mr Rabone has since the war lost touch with a former friend in the 1st Battalion, Jack Hill.

From roughly the same area we have had a letter from Mr A. Kimmet, former number 2879320 whose address is 36 Laurel Street, Sycamore Road, Nottingham. He had been sent by the Secretary of the Nottingham Association, a copy of the Journal in which he had found the photograph of his old Depot Squad—Serlingapatam 1939. Mr Kimmet, who was taken prisoner with the 5/7th Battalion at St Valery, would very much like to hear from any of his old friends in the Squad.

*

Finally, to keep the marriage pot boiling, we have to report that both Captain Roddy Kinghorn and Lieutenant Richard Ord have now irrevocably committed matrimony.

We were fortunate enough to attend the rites and celebrations in the former case. One presumes Carol knew what she was doing, although after the speeches

by Best Man Fawcus and Groom Kinghorn, not to mention an oration by Druid Bill Wright, she might well have begun to wonder.

Anyway it was a splendid affair for the Guests and it was pleasant to find that even with the Battalion in Germany there were some "returned" faces present amongst a considerable throng of Officers of the Regiment.

*

We have just re-discovered in our files an enquiry which has, we regret to say, remained for a long time unanswered. Captain A. J. R. Walter, 3rd (Militia) Battalion is anxious to obtain the address of Major M. H. O. Forbes, with a view to arranging a small reunion together with Major J. F. J. Watson.

We believe Major Forbes is still resident in Edinburgh but unfortunately have no address. If any reader can help, Captain Walter lives at Fyning Lane House, Rogate, near Petersfield, Hants.

OBITUARY

Mr. GRANT MACLEOD

Mr. MacLeod, who died at his home in South Africa at the age of 78 on 7th March 1967 served with the Regiment during the 1st World War. He was wounded at Neuve Chapelle at the same time as Lieutenant Colonel Uniacke, commanding the 2nd Battalion was killed, and later served at the War Office.

A reader in South Africa has sent us the following extract from "The Cape Times":—

RUGBY GIANT OF 1906 TEST DIES AGED 78

One of rugby's grandest old men, Mr. Grant MacLeod, who was instrumental in the defeat of South Africa by Scotland in a 1906 test, died in Cape Town yesterday.

This was a historic match because it was the Springbok's first international abroad and the only one they lost in Britain until 1965. Mr. MacLeod, only 17 at the time, was playing on the wing for Scotland. His was the first try of the match.

Mr. MacLeod came to South Africa 27 years ago and one of his greatest friends in later years was "Paddy" Carolin, the man who captained South Africa in that memorable match.

Apart from being a great rugby player, Mr. MacLeod was a fine all-round sportsman. He was a Cambridge triple Blue for cricket, rugby and athletics and narrowly missed playing cricket for England.

Mr. MacLeod leaves his wife and son, Lt.-Comdr. M. G. MacLeod and a daughter, Mrs. Rona Spearling.

MR. GEORGE CRUICKSHANKS

Mr. Cruickshanks who died in Edinburgh on 14th April 1967 aged 83 was a well known piper in the Regiment serving with the 2nd Battalion during the South African War including the Siege of Ladysmith and during the 1st World War with the 1st Battalion at Mons.

The following notice is from "The Sunday Post" of April 30th:—

When old George Cruickshanks died, it seemed a sad and lonely end to a life that had once been full of comradeship.

George, who lived in Morrison Street, Haymarket, Edinburgh, and was in his 80's, had been a sergeant-piper in the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, and no soldier could have been prouder of his regiment. He and his pipes were at the relief of Ladysmith in the Boer War, and it was his skirling music that led the kilted Highlandmen into action at Mons.

As I say, most of his life George had been surrounded by his comrades — but, when the end came, he was alone. The army had been his life, and he had never married. The few relatives he had lived far from Edinburgh.

That is why, on the day of his funeral two weeks ago, only three mourners followed him on his last journey to Warriston Crematorium. But what a surprise awaited them there. When George was carried through the door, no fewer than 40 old soldiers were waiting at attention.

Some had served with him in the South African War. Others were by his side in World War I. And when they read the announcement of their old comrade's death, they came from all over the city to honour him, wearing their medal ribbons and the gold ties of the Gordon Highlanders' Association.

Silently they listened while the minister spoke of the old warrior who had fought the good fight. Then, to a man, they rose to sing George's favourite psalm, "The Lord's My Shepherd."

I can think of no prouder farewell, or one that would have meant more to the old piper.



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BACKWARD GLANCES

7th Battalion, 1907

This photograph, interesting alike for the individuals and the uniform, was sent in by Major K. W. Braid, OBE, now living at Skene. He is the central figure seated on the ground.

3rd (Militia) Battalion

As will be seen from the caption very little is known about this photograph and any information will be welcome.

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The Diary of Corporal H. Robertson, 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders continued:—

July 20th

9.0 a.m. Fine morning. Feeling effects of gas still. Very heavy shelling going on up by. Cookers and pipe band join us. Good meal and good sleep from Noon till 5.0 p.m. Make up our total

casualties—220 Killed—465 Wounded—80 missing. What you call leaving your mark. And as about 40 have gone to Field Ambulance with sundries that leaves about 100 fighting men, who couldn't do much fighting just now. Played out. Hear there's a draft of 600 waiting for us, to fill the gaps. Very short of Officers—C.O. wants me to take a commission in the field—a Lieut. in the 1/- Gordons—Good Lord it means suicide. Live Corpl. better than dead Lieut. I told the C.O. He laughed and said nothing. Get to bed at 9 p.m. Sleep sound—lucky it is dry.

July 21st

Fine day. Things quiet. Draft arrived 3.0 p.m. See a few old faces back again. 9 p.m. We are off again to Delville Wood. Gee—that wood will drive me mad—had enough of it on 18th inst. Half roads up that road I know so well—shelling starts. Rotten—caught in open. Casualties start. 2 of the new draft killed already. They hadn't long to stick it.



Officers 7th Battalion Gordon Highlanders at the first Territorial Camp at Garrach, Echt, Aberdeenshire, in June, 1907. (Note: The black belts with their distinctive buckles; the black Glengarries; the black buttons (rifle brigade); the dark-red hose and the "V" below the distinctive collar-badge of the late 5th Deeside Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders).

Back Row: Major & QM Smyth (Echt); Lt Thom; Lt J. Milne (Ballater); Lt Hunter (Cults and Culter); Capt Dawson (Laurencekirk); 2/Lt Forsyth (Laurencekirk); Capt R. Bruce (Cults and Culter); Lt Gregor (Banchory); Lt Dunbar (Factor, Crathes & Banchory). Middle Row: Capt John Reid (Durriss); Capt R. W. Walker (Portlethen); Lt Col. Davidson, Second in Command (Inchmarlo, Banchory); Lt Col Farquharson of Invercauld, C.O. (Braemar); Capt and Adjt Singleton (HLI); Major H. Bower (Pitmurchie, Torphins); Capt Coltman (Tillypronie and Bielack, Aboyne and Dinnet). Front Row: 2/Lt Blacklaws (Banchory); 2/Lt K. W. Braid (Durriss); Lt John Walker (Portlethen).

The camp lay on the Garlogie side of Garrach about 10½ miles west of Aberdeen. A strip of trees has been planted on part of the site.

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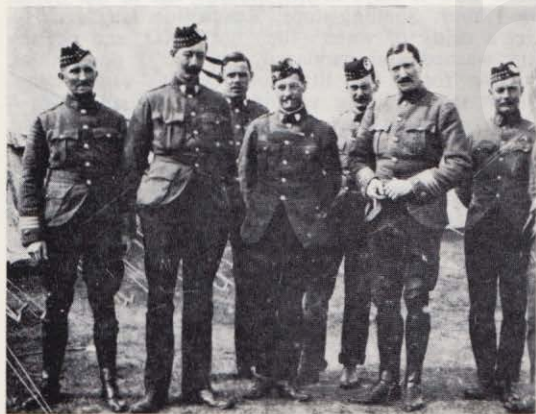
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We lie down right in front of a battery of 4.5s and 2 batteries of French 75 mms. Deafened by uproar. Nose starts to bleed with concussion. Don't like this—as we will get what Jerry sends, back to our guns. Sure enough—'tis so. Very warm. Lose about 20 men in 5 minutes. Though its dark can see the gun crews slaving at it—just like pictures of stokers at a ships furnace. Stripped to the waist. A German 6 inch lands plump—right in front of one of our 4.5s—about 200 feet from where I'm lying. Bright flash—smell of sulphur—smoke—smoke cleared—hey presto—no gun or gun crew to be seen. Just like one of David Devant's tricks that I've seen at home. **12 Midnight.** Things quieten down. We move up; through the same dead men and horses I saw on 18th plus 3 days killing. Stench a bit worse now. We go through the remains of Longueval. Take up our position in the remains of a trench running along edge of Delville Wood. This is the bit we suffered for 3 days ago. Imagine sacrificing 800 for about 200 yards of ground. What a game this is. Germans reported to be somewhere between 200 and 1000 yards from us. Rather vague that. Have a sleep of sorts from 3.30 a.m. to 6.0 a.m.



3rd (Militia) Battalion Gordon Highlanders. Extreme left—Major J. O. Forbes of Corse. When and where was the camp, and who are the others?

July 22nd

6.0 a.m. Feeling grubby. Dull & dismal sort of day so far. Quiet. Feeling very hungry, one can't live on bread and tea always—and oftener biscuits than bread at that. A parcel would be a godsend just now. Have a look round—at things in general and for food in particular. Can see about 5 miles or so right back into German ground. We are on the ridge. That will be why this place is contested for so often. Expect we will be "for it" after the German gunners get their sleep over. Can see the flash from the German field batteries. Not healthy to gaze from one position too long as there are bound to be M.G. Fire about. Have heard a few odd bullets flying past. Odd shells every 20 minutes or so up to 6 or 7 p.m. Very quiet day. **8 p.m.** Bramah "finds" some food. Get a smokeless fire started and sit down to have bread and tea as usual. Odd bullet flattens itself on a stump of tree six feet above our heads. It's a right wicked

sound that. Gives one the impression that the firer saw you and meant it for you—yourself. Especially when it hits wood—sounds like an explosive bullet **10 p.m.** Usual wind up. Both artilleries go at it for an hour. Then quietness. Result—10 wounded. Bandage 2 of them. Get to sleep at 3.0 a.m. after getting tot of rum.

July 23rd

Waken at 9 a.m. Fine hot day. Everything quiet. Hunt around and manage to get breakfast (in name)—(more tea and bread) at 11.0 a.m. Manage to get into village of Longueval. Very battered look. Good view. Can see Bazentin—Fricourt—Combles—Trones Wood—High Wood. Heavy firing on the Combles—Bapaume Road. **11.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m.** What the newspapers call "Intermittent shelling—nothing to report". These intermittent stunts seem quite hot for those who are in it. Got my tunic and arm torn with barbed wire—dodging a "black 'un". **7.0 p.m.** Post in—4 "Telegraphs". Quiet night—for a wonder.

July 24th

Quiet morning—very hot—no water. 5th day without shave—wash or clothes off. Rumours that we get relieved tonight. Hope so. Hope it is quiet when going out—that's when you get caught on the "stot"—so to speak. **11.30 a.m.** Relief rumour—only a rumour. Lot of German aircraft up. Looks bad that. Ours up too. Saw one of our boys "get it". His machine started to descend tail first for about 1000 ft. then started turning somersaults on its side. Could hear it crash about 400 yards away. Went over smashed to bits. Only observer to be seen. Lying doubled. Probably half his bones smashed. Pilot not to be seen. Must be buried under the wreckage. Shift—as German shells are coming close. They always do after a plane "comes down"—to ensure a right smash up. Things quiet up till about 8.0 p.m. when Germans start throwing over heavy stuff. Everybody making for dug outs. Caught unawares. In the front line at the time. Get into a sort of hole. Two fellows arguing the point about 5 yards from me—as to who is to occupy a hole next to me—only room for one. Argument ended by arrival of a 4.5". One killed outright—head blown off—Steel is his name—the other chap unscratched. Strange how one escapes. Other fellow promptly avails himself of his shelter. Can see Steel's head from where I'm sitting. Other chap remarks—"Well—he wid argy—his ain fau't". Have a smoke. Shelling getting heavier. Lots of shrapnel coming over. Can hear it screaming and see odd bits thumping into the red clay. Got a bit on the sole of my boot—cut leather slightly—hit at the right angle—for me. Have another smoke—supply the other fellow with "fags" also. Trench getting blown in at bits. Ground shaking like a jelly with concussion—9" stuff doing that. Lull at 9.30 p.m. Hop it to Bn. H.Q. dug out—safer place. Landscape altered a bit. A few killed lying about. Arrive at H.Q. dug out. 1 Killed, 2 Wounded here—so far. **9.45 p.m.** Lull over—second house now commencing. As bad as ever. A continual round of bumps and ear splitting explosions. 13 of us in this dug out including the C.O. The more authority you have the further away you are from the entrance of the dug out. Chap sitting next to me—his nerves giving way. I think these chaps are more pathetic sight than wounded—his face is always twitching—also his legs. Gets on ones nerves,

11.30 p.m. One shell enters dug out and bursts. All lights blown out—stink of sulphur—darkness—groans—felt my stomach going in with air displacement. Get a candle lit. What a mess. 5 Killed—5 Wounded. C.O., R.S.M. and myself untouched. Lucky. Start bandaging. Uproar outside seems to be getting worse. Had trouble with the nervous man—took R.S.M. and myself all our time to keep him down. Off his head—Shell shock and hit on the knee. Bandaged that. Said he was hit in the back. Took off his kilt and examined his back while R.S.M. sat on his legs. Nothing visible—probably cold sweat running down his back—plenty of it—he probably thought it blood. **1.0 a.m.** Shelling stops all of a sudden. Machine Guns chattering. Looks like an attack from Jerry. Wind up. We fix bayonets and man the parapet, and send up rockets for reinforcements. One went up right behind me—got a scare—didn't know they were putting one up. Can smell gas—smoke helmets on. Bullets swishing over head like hail.

July 25th

Things quieten down a bit at 2.0 a.m. No attack so far. Stand to until 3.0 a.m. **3.30 a.m.** Dawn—can see what's what now. Heavy firing again—shells up to 7.0 a.m. I wonder how many men we have lost? Lewis guns start—shelling stops; but it is only lifted further back—to stop reinforcements coming to our aid—more gas shells. **7.30 a.m.** Germans coming on. Can see them. Also reinforcements marching 4 deep some miles back. C.O. gets excited. Not getting stopped quick enough—within 400 yards of us. We get a Lewis gun rigged up. None of us used to it. I get job of firing it. C.O. tears a bit of his shirt off—use it up to get sand out of it. R.S.M. hunting for drums of ammunition. Get her going. Find I'm kicking up the stour about 200 yards in front; will be killing our own wounded. Get used to it—and latterly get range. Doing damage too. Feel sun very hot—sweat trickling into my eyes at times. Quite interesting this—spraying Jerry—just like a hose pipe. Can see them dropping like corn at harvest time. Gun jams. Get hand burned sorting it. Start off again. Jerry has spotted where we are. Getting what we gave. Very uncomfortable. Manage to silence one gun. Other two at us, can't see them. One of them fairly digging up the ground 20 yards ahead. The other too much elevation as can hear them going overhead. Run through a few more drums—must have fired about 5000 rounds. Get stopped rudely by shell pitching about 10 yards to left front of us. A big lad too. Miniature earthquake. When I get the dirt and muck off me and surplus soil off my legs—find that the gun is buried. Leave it as it will be all jammed up. Shift along what remains of our trench. **9.0 a.m.** Attack failed. Things quiet. Nearest they got to us about 200 yards. **10.0 a.m.** Germans give us hell for 30 minutes—just for spite I suppose—determined to have last word. **11.0 a.m.** Things very quiet. Wouldn't think there had been such an uproar lately. Feeling very thirsty. No water. Also hungry. Make a tour of our front for casualty reports. Result 110 Killed—250 Wounded. Mostly of the new draft. Dig out the gun—clean it and oil it and load it ready for the next "rammie". No food to be found. **4 p.m.** Bn. transport arrive with water and rations. Hooray! Have our first meal since yesterday morning and it was only an imitation meal. Big breakfast, 4 of us

have 12 men's rations. The other 8 don't need it. **6 p.m.** Brigade order arrived stating that we will get relieved about 1 in the morning. Good. C.O. says I've to go on ahead myself and deliver a few messages at Brigade H.Q. Leave at 8 p.m. via Longueval and the notorious sunken road—will never forget that road. First half of journey completed in quietness—just shaking hands with myself when a 4.5" comes over and bursts about 20 yards behind me. Get the wind up. And try to run—cannot—legs too sore. Hurry on about 20 seconds later another drops about 20 yards from my right side. Hurry on. Keep an ear open for No. 3. When I hear it—jump into remains of trench. After burst—up and run another 50 yards then down again. And so on. A game of hide and seek. This happens 6 or 7 times—and the shells seem as close as ever. Can just see the black and white spurt of earth and flame as I disappear under ground level each time. Get plastered with earth. Luckily none land right beside me. Latterly get too exhausted to move—what between the heat—can feel sweat running down my legs—legs all torn with wire and earth with jumping down and—thirst. Feel my tongue so large that I don't know how it stays in my mouth. Lie in the trench for 1 hour. Shelling stops. Reach Bde. H.Q. latterly. Get a drink of water—then hot OXO, and get my legs washed and bandaged for me. I don't think I'll ever forget that little journey. It's a nightmare. Never saw a living soul the whole road down—plenty of dead ones though.

July 26th

Arrive at Bn. transport lines about 1.0 a.m. Get a good feed from the boys. Tell them all about it. Bn. arrive at **4.0 a.m.** and get a feed. **6 a.m.** Pipe band arrive and off we go—the right way this time. Arrive at a nice woody stretch of ground at 11.0 a.m. All out. Legs too sore to march. Still manage it. Bn. exhausted. Get good meal—and good drink of rum. Get our greatcoats back again—for a wonder. Very hot. Dog tired. Go to sleep under some pines—first sleep since night of 23rd. Wakened at 8 p.m. for tea. Get it and go to sleep again.

July 27th

Waken at 9.0 a.m. Lovely day. Hot and clear. Have a shave and wash—the first since 20th. What a job to get a week's growth off. Scissors would be better than razors. Good breakfast. Spent from 11.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. lying in the shade of the trees—lay and smoked nearly all the time. All the rest doing nearly the same—some sleeping. Hardly anybody talking—everything quiet. This is the reaction setting in. I feel listless. The high tension feeling has gone and a dullness creeps over me. I think the rest are pretty much the same. You've got to get used to the quietness. Some are worse—as I can see some of them starting up and twitching their muscles—nerves going. I wonder how much more I can stand—not much I fancy. Have had a year of it now. **6.0 p.m.** Tea and pipe band start playing to buck us up. Feeling a bit chirpier myself. Lots of French troops here. They are "daft" on our band. Piper Coufts gives them a Highland Fling and Sword Dance. Great applause. 4 Pipers give a 4 some reel. More applause—"Vive les Ecossais" etc. French officer thanks us. Very entertaining. To bed at 10.0 p.m. Sleep well.

OFFICERS' LOCATION

AS AT 15th JUNE, 1967.

REGULAR OFFICERS**Rank, Initials, Name and Decorations**

Lieutenant Colonel R. W. SMITH
 Lieutenant Colonel E. E. TOMS
 Lieutenant Colonel J. NEISH
 Lieutenant Colonel I. C. S. MUNRO
 Lieutenant Colonel A. T. C. BROWN
 Major J. D. S. YOUNG
 Major M. A. C. STEPHEN
 Lieutenant Colonel A. J. C. RICHARDSON
 Major R. A. NICKSON, MC
 Major J. A. G. TINDALL
 Major M. H. BURGE
 Major D. H. W. BROWN, MC
 Major I. McK. ROBERTSON
 Major R. C. B. CHANCELLOR, MBE
 L/Lieutenant Colonel J. J. H. SIMPSON
 Major J. T. D. DURBIN
 Major R. D. L. SMART
 Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS
 Major C. J. D. GORDON-STEWARD
 Captain E. F. GORDON
 Captain W. D. R. WEST
 Captain P. W. GRAHAM
 Captain A. N. M. SCOTT
 T/Major K. I. H. LUMSDEN
 Captain R. G. D. BRUCE
 Captain N. F. M. OXLEY
 Captain I. FLEMING, MA
 Captain T. H. G. DUKE
 Captain C. H. VAN DER NOOT
 Captain R. S. FAWCUS
 Captain D. M. H. DU BOULAY
 Lieutenant A. M. CUMMING
 Lieutenant D. H. WHITE
 Lieutenant G. H. PEEBLES
 Captain R. M. KINGHORN
 Lieutenant J. R. URQUHART
 Lieutenant I. G. H. WALLACE
 Lieutenant R. S. HUNTER-BLAIR
 Lieutenant C. LYON
 Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN
 Lieutenant D. M. NAPIER
 Lieutenant R. D. ORD
 Lieutenant M. N. B. N. ROSS
 Lieutenant M. P. TAITT
 Lieutenant F. D. H. IRVINE
 2/Lieutenant A. I. O. FORBES
 2/Lieutenant A. I. G. KENNEDY
 2/Lieutenant I. F. STEWART
 Lieutenant Colonel (QM) F. KERNOHAN
 Major (QM) R. B. WILKINSON, MBE
 Captain (QM) G. DUNN
 Captain (QM) W. J. R. DAWSON

Present Location

HQ Highland District
 HQ United Kingdom Land Forces
 Commanding 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 HQ Hampshire Sub District
 Commanding Highland Brigade Depot
 Camp Commandant, HQ Scottish Command
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Inspectorate of Armaments
 British Military Mission, Libya
 DAQMG (Quarterming) 4 Division
 G (Intelligence) HQ BAOR
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 School of Infantry, Warminster
 Staff College, Camberley
 HQ Ministry of Defence, Malaysia
 DAAG Highland Brigade
 HQ 3 Division
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 GSO III Ops/Trg HQ 24 Brigade
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 SC "Q" Ops HQ 1 (BR) Corps
 22 Cadets Training Team
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 HQ Highland District
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Malaysia Rangers
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Air Base, Middle Wallop
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 2nd Bn 2nd KEO Gurkhas
 2nd Parachute Regt
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Highland Brigade Depot
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Oxford University
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Allied Land Forces Central Europe
 Ministry of Public Buildings and Works
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders

SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

Major G. DUNCAN
 Lieutenant R. J. GERRARD
 2/Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN
 2/Lieutenant N. M. HUNTER-BLAIR
 2/Lieutenant A. D. P. ROSS
 2/Lieutenant C. E. PRICE

ACIO, Glasgow
 Malaysia Rangers
 Highland Brigade Depot
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 HS Highland Brigade Depot

GAZETTE

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt F. D. H. Irvine (479262) to be Lt, 30th January, 1967.

2nd Lt M. P. Taitt (479363) to be Lt, 30th January, 1967.

Maj I. D. Martineau (414920) retires on retired pay, 1st May, 1967.

Maj (QM) C. Michie, MBE (451876) having attained retiring age, is placed on retired pay, 8th June, 1967.

Short Service Commission—Maj C. D. A. Provo, MBE (302171) (E.L.(3)), relinquishes his commission 7th April 1967, and is granted the hon. rank of Lt Col.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt P. J. Fitch (459788) relinquishes his commission, 14th February 1967.

Capt (Hon. Maj) S. W. Chant-Sempill, OBE (105159) having attained the age limit relinquishes his commission, 11th March, 1967, and is granted the hon. rank of Lt Col.

Lt Col. J. E. G. Hay, D.S.O. (53775), having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs, 31st May 1967.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

2nd Lt D. P. McCarthy (478895) (on probation), is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt, 27th March, 1965. To be Lt, 27th March, 1967.

2nd Lt A. W. Simmers (478897) (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt, 27th March, 1965. To be Lt, 27th March, 1967.

24081745 Pte James Archibald (483718) to be 2nd Lt (on probation), 1st April, 1967, with senior-2nd Lt (on probation), 19th March, 1967.

Robert Laurence Campbell Chalmers (483719) to be 2nd Lt (on probation), 19th March, 1967.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE — 3 GORDONS

Category III—

2nd Lt J. Archibald (483718) from T.A., to be 2nd Lt, 19th March 1967.

2nd Lt R. L. C. Chalmers (483719) from T.A., to be 2nd Lt (on probation), 1st April, 1967, with seniority 19th March 1967.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE—LONDON YEOMANRY AND TERRITORIALS

Category III—

Maj W. J. C. Ford, T.D. (426190) from T.A., R.E., to be Maj 1st April 1967, with seniority 1st January 1964.

Capt V. D. Revell (413808) from T.A., R.E., to be Capt 1st April 1967, with seniority 1st September 1954.

Capt W. B. Campbell, T.D. (412347) from T.A., Gordons, to be Capt 1st April 1967, with seniority 2nd November 1956.

Capt H. R. Hamilton (448683) from T.A., Gordons, to be Capt 1st April 1967, with seniority 20th December 1965.

Lt R. C. Robertson (455475) from T.A., R.E., to be Lt 1st April 1967, with seniority 21st April 1963.

Lt C. H. Coster (459342) from T.A., R.E., to be Lt 1st April 1967, with seniority 23rd July, 1963.

2nd Lt D. Hough (482376) from T.A., R.E., to be 2nd Lt (on probation), 1st April 1967, with seniority 27th July 1966.

THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION FOR THE ARMY STAFF COURSE AND FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR—STAFF CANDIDATES

The above officers have qualified in the above examination and are eligible for selection for Staff Training:—

Captain P. W. Graham.

Captain A. N. M. Scott.

PRACTICAL PROMOTION EXAMINATION (LIEUTENANT TO CAPTAIN) FEBRUARY 1967

The following Officers have passed the above examination for promotion from Lieutenant to Captain:—

Lieutenant A. M. Cumming.

Lieutenant R. S. Hunter-Blair.

T/Captain R. M. Kinghorn.

Lieutenant R. D. Ord.

Lieutenant M. N. B. N. Ross.

Lieutenant I. G. H. Wallace.

Lieutenant J. R. Urquhart.

EDITORIAL NOTICES

FIFTY-FIRST HIGHLAND DIVISION RE-UNION

Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG, GCB, DSO, will be the Principal guest at the 51st Highland Division Re-union on the North Inch, Perth, on Saturday, 7th October.

The event will be held in the 25th anniversary month of the Battle of Alamein, that began on the night of 23rd October, 1942.

All ex-members of the Division, who served at any time, in peace or in war, since its inception in 1908, are invited to attend, with their families and friends.

The event will commence at 12 noon when Regimental tents will open and throughout the day there will be recruiting displays, exhibitions of modern weapons, Massed Military Bands and Beating of Retreat by Massed Pipes and Drums.

If you can attend, please contact "The Re-union Office, Highland House, Perth," giving details of your party.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE GOLF SPRING MEETING, MUIRFIELD RESULTS

Detailed Results were as follows. (Forward Tees were used):

Medal

Lt-Col B. A. Innes (BW) ...	84 — 11 = 73	Note 1
Capt R. B. Porteous (A&SH) ...	80 — 5 = 75	Note 2
Maj G. Morrison (Gordons) ...	98 — 22 = 76	
Col C. N. Barker (Gordons) ...	84 — 8 = 76	Note 3
I. D. Mackenzie (A&SH) ...	83 — 6 = 77	

Stableford

Lt-Col B. A. Innes (BW)	39	Points
Capt R. B. Porteous (A&SH) ...	37	Points Note 4
Col C. N. Barker (Gordons) ...	37	Points
Maj G. Morrison (Gordons) ...	36	Points
Maj D. F. Callander (QO Hldrs) ...	36	Points

Note 1 Innes—Wins Medal.
 Note 2 Porteous—Wins Best Scratch.
 Note 3 Barker—Wins Best Scratch (Serving Officers)

Note 4 Porteous—Wins Stableford (After Tie—
 Innes Not Eligible).
 Consolation Prize—Won by Lt-Col A. T. C. Brown
 (Gordons)

BLACK WATCH v. QO HLDERS

Capt Sir D. Montgomery	0	Major D. A. W. Lochhead (1 hole)	1
Major T. S. Fotheringham	0	Capt A. M. Curle	1
Lt-Col M. Wolfe Murray (2 and 1)	1	Lt-Gen D. B. Lang	0
Col G. W. Dunn	0	Lt-Col R. D. MacLagan (3 holes)	1
Major D. B. Severn (5 and 4)	1	Major J. M. Barber	0
	—		—
	2		3
	<u>2</u>		<u>3</u>

GORDONS v. ARGYLLS

Col C. N. Barker	1	Capt R. B. Porteous	0
Lt-Col J. Simpson	0	I. D. Mackenzie	1
Capt. K. J. Irvine	0	Major G. B. Hendry	1
Lt-Col R. W. Smith	0	Capt A. F. Bell	1
Col C. M. Usher	0	Col J. D. L. Boyle	1
	—		—
	1		4
	<u>1</u>		<u>4</u>

2nd Round**BLACK WATCH v. ARGYLLS**

Montgomery	0	Porteous (2 and 1)	1
Fotheringham	0	Mackenzie (21st)	1
Wolfe Murray (3 and 2)	1	Hendry	0
Dunn	0	Bell (19th)	1
Severn	0	Boyle	1
	—		—
	1		4
	<u>1</u>		<u>4</u>

QO HLDERS v. GORDONS

Lochhead	1	Barker	0
Curle	1	Simpson	0
Lang	1	Irvine	0
MacLagan	1	Smith	0
Barber	1	Du Boulay	0
	—		—
	5		0
	<u>5</u>		<u>0</u>

3rd Round**QO HLDERS v. ARGYLLS**

Lochhead (2 holes)	1	Porteous	0
Curle (2 and 1)	1	Mackenzie	0
Lang (3 and 2)	1	Hendry	0
MacLagan	0	Bell (1 hole)	1
Barber	0	Boyle (4 and 3)	1
	—		—
	3		2
	<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>

BLACK WATCH v. GORDONS

Montgomery	1	Barker	0
Fotheringham	1	Simpson	0
Rusk	1	Findlay Shirras	0
Dunn	1	Morrison	0
Severn	1	Brown	0
	—		—
	5		0
	<u>5</u>		<u>0</u>

Final Placings

1st—QO HLDERS	3 Wins
2nd—ARGYLLS	2 Wins
3rd—BLACK WATCH	1 Win

Next Meeting:—

Gleneagles Hotel, 28th - 29th October (A.G.M.).
 It was agreed that next year's Meeting should be played at Muirfield, on 15th, 16th and 17th May.

VIMY RIDGE 1967

Young readers probably know little of the history of Vimy Ridge. Middle aged readers possibly know that it is a regimental battle honour from the Great War of 1914-18. Veterans of the 4th, 5th and 6th Bns of the Regiment in the 1914-18 War will certainly remember it as a place where on Easter Monday, 9th April 1917, the powerful Canadian Corps, with the 51st (Highland) Division on its right, stormed and took Vimy Ridge. In doing so the Canadians suffered more than 10,000 casualties.

I was fortunate enough to be asked to represent the regiment at the Commemoration Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the battle. On Saturday, 8th April I crossed to France and joined representatives from other British infantry regiments who have "VIMY—1917" as a battle honour.

Sunday 9th April 1967 dawned dull and misty. All the British representatives, having gathered together, were taken to the Canadian National Memorial at Vimy. This magnificent memorial, with its twin commemorative pylons communing with the open sky and which had been unveiled by King Edward VIII in 1936, stood in all its glory in the mist. Around the area of the memorial we noticed that the ground had been allowed to remain untouched since 1917. Shell holes were everywhere. As we waited on this now peaceful hill one could but think back of the turmoil of moving men, spouting earth and drifting smoke that must have taken place 50 years ago. To-day stands had been built for the ceremony and were filled to capacity with official representatives and an estimated 20,000 French civilian onlookers. Place of honour amongst those present was given to 74 Canadian veterans, all survivors of the 1917 battle, who had been flown across the Atlantic to visit Vimy once again.

As the time for the ceremony approached, the Canadian and British Guards of Honour, the latter found by The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, took up position to await the arrival of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, representing on this great Canadian occasion The Queen of Canada. On his arrival, His Royal Highness was received with a 21 gun salute fired by a troop of the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. The Canadian survivors of the battle, each one of whom represented the Canadian unit or corps with which he served in the battle, stood as if they were 50 years younger whilst H.R.H. inspected them. Finally H.R.H. inspected the two Guards of Honour.

The inspection completed, H.R.H. took his place in the stand and the Hon. Leo Cadieux, P.C., M.P., Associate Minister of National Defence, read a message from the Prime Minister of Canada. This was followed by an address by H.R.H. during which he said — "All mankind must learn from this what happens when the personal ambition, arrogance and pride of its national leaders and the nationalism and aggressive instincts of a people drag half the world into war."

A Service then followed. During the service wreaths were laid by H.R.H., other official representatives, each of the official Canadian survivors from the battle and by the representatives from the British regiments. We were fortunate in being able to arrange that the representatives from the Scottish Infantry, namely The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Black Watch (The Royal Highland Regiment),

The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment), The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's) and myself mounted the steps and laid our wreaths at the Memorial together. The Highland Light Infantry and The Seaforth Highlanders being represented by officers from The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Queen's Own Highlanders. The final wreath laying ceremony consisted of local school children from Arras and Vimy, in the cold and by then heavy rain, laying posies of flowers on each of the steps leading to the memorial.

The service ended with the Act of Remembrance led by Lieut. General E. L. M. Burns, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., the lament, Last Post, one minute's silence and finally Reveille. As Reveille sounded out of the mist flew two aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force — at a very low level, to drop thousands of red poppies from Flanders over the memorial. At the conclusion of the ceremony the official party of survivors and the Guards of Honour marched past and the salute was taken by H.R.H.

After the ceremony the British representatives were invited, by the Government of Canada, to attend a luncheon in honour of the survivors of the battle. This took place in Arras and was a unique experience. Here we sat amongst the survivors themselves—all of them holders of many decorations which they proudly wore on this memorable day. The representative of the 48th Highlanders of Canada with a D.C.M. The representative of The Toronto Scottish with an M.M. and Bar and a Croix de Guerre. Here we heard first-hand accounts of the battle. How the attack began at 5.30 a.m. in driving sleet that whitened the backs of the Canadian troops and blew towards the Germans. How 15,000 Canadians surged forward in one wave, to be followed by two more, equally strong, at intervals. How by mid-morning the sun momentarily shone through a rift in the cloud-filled sky to reveal the high ground covered with Canadian infantry consolidating their positions. Elsewhere the Canadians had pressed on to their final objectives, overrunning the ridge from the foremost defences to the enemy's gun lines—all in a single day.

As the wine flowed and the lunch continued well into the afternoon, so the party livened. The veterans sang well-known songs from the Great War. Many more stories were told. We were inundated with questions about the homeland — Scotland. The members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a Nursing Sister, all of whom were responsible for the veterans during their visit to France, became more harrassed. The situation by 5.30 p.m., as attempts were still being made to move the veterans from the luncheon tables and into their coaches for a further visit to the battlefields, can best be summed up by the remark made by a sergeant of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police — "If we don't watch out there will be far more casualties amongst them to-day than there were 50 years ago." And so, as everyone left, we too left for our hotels to pack and to start the overnight journey back across the Channel.

It had been a memorable visit and all of us can but remember with pride the achievements and courage of those who fought and died at Vimy Ridge in 1917. They were indeed "Fighting Men".

LETTER FROM SINGAPORE

By Lt J. R. Urquhart, with 2nd Bn
2nd K.E.O. Goorkhas.

It is really only when one is, for the first time, miles apart from the regiment and is barely aware of what is happening in it that the arrival of "The Tiger and Sausage" begins to cause any reaction worth recording. Letters from any literate friends keep one right up to date with any amount of scandal and dark rumours (apparently accurate) of romance in the Officers' Mess. But the abiding strength of the Gordons lies so much more in the Sergeants' Mess than many of us younger ones realize that it comes as a real surprise to find oneself turning there for news of what is going on and what is thought of it.

This is one of the main values of secondment and ERE at all levels. One can stand back and take a deep and objective look at various systems of achieving similar ends, and in the end the result is by no means merely a comparison and contrast. It is also a better appreciation of the worth and finer points of both systems.

The similarity between Gurkhas and Gordon Highlanders is amazing considering the different backgrounds. And though the Gurkha regiments vary enormously in their ways the central theme is the same as ours; that the men rather than the officers provide the permanence in a regiment. This is reflected at any one time in the messes, not necessarily of the officers but of the senior groups of men who have served that regiment continuously and longest; the QGOs' Mess in a Gurkha Battalion and the Sergeants' Mess in a British one. Officers

come and go. Some leave their mark on a regiment, some simply absorb some of the regiment themselves. Very few nowadays serve as long as any Warrant Officer.

I am continually meeting ex-Gordons out here and discovering links between the regiment and this one to which I am now privileged to be seconded. The same print of the storming of Dargai hangs in both messes. In the Scrap book from way back there is a copy of a letter written by General Sir Ian Hamilton which I hope to get copied for a future edition of this journal.

The SO II Education here, Major Ferrier is an ex-3rd Gordon, and the other day I met a splendid man whose name I am very ashamed to say I have forgotten, but between many glasses of Tiger Beer I think I gathered that he joined the Gordons band in 1928 and served with them until the last war, becoming bandmaster. He is now an RO in Hong Kong; perhaps a reader can jog my appalling memory? A visitor to our Mess recently was Col Jock McNeil, now RAOC, previously in Recce with whom he fought alongside Gordon battalions in 51st Highland Division and was very pro-Regiment.

The FETC at Nee Soon seems to have recovered from the shock of hearing that ORQMS West was descending on it and appears to be back in its usual form. But I have briefly met Sgt Sharpe at the Jungle Warfare School and am glad to be able to report that he is as fit and independent as ever.

And of course, Sunray Sinister, while not being able himself to visit this far-flung outpost, ensures that a family representative occasionally calls in to see if we're behaving . . .

1ST BATTALION

EDITORIAL

The Company and Department notes that follow are comparatively brief. This is largely because since our arrival in Minden we have never had long to sit still, and life has been "all go".

The picture (right) shows our new toy, the Armoured Personnel Carrier known as FV 432. The sixty-odd that we hold converts us into the role of Mechanised Infantry. Each costs £20,000, and in the Battalion we have some £3 million worth of equipment.

Our Barracks are on the outskirts of Minden, pleasantly laid out and of single storey buildings. They were originally built as a Gunner Barracks, and so are unusually well appointed in offices and stores. Barrack Blocks each house about 40 men, sleeping in rooms of 6 or so. In summer the Barracks will be very nice, but in winter they will become wind-swept, though the central heating is extremely efficient. Although almost in the country, we are only 10 minutes in a vehicle from the centre of Minden, and the same distance from some of the Married Quarters and the Officers' "patch".

Our main task since arrival and taking over, has been the training of drivers for the APCs, and others for wheeled vehicles; the training of Commanders of the APCs, and the introduction to as many as possible of the intricacies of driving and maintaining the armoured vehicles. Our instructors, trained while we were in UK, have been hard at it, and their

efforts are rewarded in the successes of the Cadres and in the numbers passed out with the requisite driving licences.

Those not on these tasks have been on fitness training in preparation for our annual Physical



Armoured Personnel Carrier FV 432. Private Knox driving.

Efficiency Tests, and on weapon training prior to annual classification. The latter will in its final stages be carried out on electric target ranges, which are a great advance on the old well-known gallery ranges.

Fourteen days after the Battalion arrived we were on our first Command Post Exercise with about 11 FV 432, twenty vehicles and eighty men in all. It went well, and we learnt much about our new role. The FV 432 drivers did exceptionally well, having finished their Cadre the day before the exercise started.



These Boots Weren't Made for Walking.

Exercises continue throughout the year and it is difficult to find in one's diary a few blank days when it may be possible to get down to the more mundane, but nevertheless necessary aspects of soldiering.

Readers will note the new numbering of platoons, designed to acquaint all with radio procedure, and when one remembers that each vehicle has at least one, and sometimes four radios in it, this is most necessary. Within our establishment we now have a REME Light Aid Detachment, and it is hoped that they will contribute to the next edition of this Journal.

Our new Regimental Pipe Banner was delivered to us just before we left UK. It is a fine work of art, and has already been carried at our first guest night here. Those who contributed to the making of it will I hope see it when they visit us in Minden.

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander: Major D. A. N. C. Miers.
Second in Command: Captain R. G. D. Bruce.
Company Sergeant Major: WO II Cameron.
Company Quartermaster Sergeant: C/Sgt J. Dooley.

Officer Commanding 11 Platoon: 2 Lieut A. I. G. Kennedy.

Platoon Sergeant 11 Platoon: Sergeant D. Robertson.
Officer Commanding 12 Platoon: Sergeant A. McMillan.

Officer Commanding 14 Platoon: Lieut R. S. Hunter-Blair.

Sergeant 15 Detachment: Sergeant F. Fraser.

Sergeant 16 Detachment: Sergeant W. Joss.

MT Sergeant: Sergeant P. Robertson.

Our last days in Edinburgh were spent on courses, cadres, and in counting the days until embarkation leave and the move to Germany. Just about everyone managed to attend a course or cadre of some sort. The "Management" were instructed in Edinburgh first on the finer points of yet another signals procedure, and then at Hythe, on how many people can all talk at once inside an Armoured Personnel Carrier. The CSM attached himself to the Marines, where as far as we can discover, he learned not about rocks and canoes, but how to be a Brigadier, and Lieutenant Kennedy was sent to Germany to learn German, with specific instructions to brush up the procedure for the occupation of barns/Gast-hauses in inclement weather.

The NCOs learned about Map Reading on the move, though it was a pity that the first day of the "movement" coincided with the only heavy snow of the winter. This most unfairly obliterated all signposts and ditches on the course selected, so that much time earmarked for scrutinizing the Pentlands from all points of the compass, had to be devoted to pushing and digging landrovers out of snowdrifts. Finally nearly everyone who could be spared from driving cadres had a "shot" at mastering the German Highway Code and at recording their impressions of it on a "Tick Test" paper. This involves weighty consideration of who gives way to whom when four cars meet at an unsigned cross-roads; why it is unsafe to venture on to a railway crossing when the train has passed, but the red light is still winking; and at what distance from every type of German road hazard it is permitted to park. There are some who are still puzzling out these problems.

Shortly before leaving Edinburgh the GOC in C Scottish Command was welcomed at the gates of Redford Barracks by a Quarter Guard mounted by the Company under the command of Sgt MacMillan



*"A" Company Mortar Detachment.
Cpl Grant, Pte Cooper, Sgt Fraser.*

and including Corporal Grant 10, Corporal Sutherland, Lance Corporal Scott, Privates McIlroy, Michie and Wiseman. Thereafter we did a platoon in attack demonstration on the football field to show how we frighten local cadet forces when they request our services on "Corps" afternoons.

The move to Minden occupied the first week in April and passed off very smoothly. To make up for the fewer modern conveniences when compared with Redford Barracks, we have our own canteen, complete with juke box, football and fruit machines under the jurisdiction of Corporal McGuire, who, when he goes to the RAPC later in the year, may find the study of acquittance rolls small beer in comparison.



"A" Company Anti Tank Gun Detachment under Corporal Tevendale.

At the end of April we found ourselves, to our amazement, champion Company in the Spring sports organised by Headquarters 11 Brigade. The basis of our success were the two Company six-a-side football teams. The A team under the captaincy of Stewart beat B Company in the final, largely due to two fine goals by Liddell; while our B team although defeated in the first round went on to enter the final of the plate competition in which they were narrowly beaten by 11 Infantry Brigade Workshops. The trophy was, however, clinched by a stout performance by the hockey team, who were only defeated after a goalless draw in the third round by losing the bully off.

Before leaving Edinburgh we were very sorry to say goodbye to Captain Scott who, after handing over the Company to Major Miers, performed just about every job in the Battalion from OC "C" Company through Paymaster to Adjutant for the final move itself. We congratulate him on qualifying for the Staff College and wish him well in the year he is to spend in Scotland before going there.

We welcome Captain Bruce who has joined the Company as Second in Command from the Signal Platoon; he has already shown us the value of having an ex "Pronto" in the Company by discovering grievous faults in the Company's Ferret's Battery Charging Gear—faults which had previously baffled the technical pundits of the Brigade workshops. Other arrivals have included Lieutenant Hunter-Blair, back in his old Company again; Sergeant Fraser from the Territorial Army at Keith; Corporal Burns from the Officers' Mess; Lance Corporal Mackie on re-enlistment; Private Bell from "B" Company; Private Cheape after a lengthy stint of looking after the



"A" Company—Winners 11 Bde 6-a-side Football. Left to right: Front Row: L/Cpl O'Hara, Pte Shearer, Pte Adams 05. Front Row: Pte Liddell, Pte Stewart (Capt.), Pte Cheape.

RSM; Privates Cassie, Coyle, Irvine, Marjoribanks, Marsh and Munro from Berlin where they were attached to the Queen's Own Highlanders; Privates Full, Gauld, McCutcheon and Ritchie from the Depot.

On the debit side we have said au-revoir to Lieutenant Ross who has gone to "D" Company; Private Burston who has gone to look after the Regimental Sergeant Major; Private Johnstone to look after the Commanding Officer; Private Kelly to the Officers' Mess and Private Anderson to HQ Company where he startles everyone in his Stalwart.

Our social column for this quarter has again produced fruitful results and we congratulate Lance Corporal Scott, Privates Adam 55 and Norrie 69 on their respective marriages; Privates Wood and McInnes on the birth of a son each and Private Parry on the birth of a daughter.



Feeding the Sheep. Corporal Hossack (wearing T.O.S.) feeding the sheep on crusts of bread at Castletlaw ranges.

"B" COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major C. J. D. Gordon-Steward.

Company Second-in-Command: Captain I. Fleming, MA.

Company Sergeant-Major: WO II G. Skene.

MT Sergeant: Sgt W. Donald.

Sgt W. Richardson.

21 Platoon Commander: Lieutenant C. Lyon.

Sergeant: Sgt R. Booth.

22 Platoon Commander: 2 Lieutenant N. M. Hunter-Blair.

Sergeant: Sgt J. Ashbridge.

24 Platoon Commander: Lieutenant A. W. Duncan.

25 Section Sergeant: Sgt P. Charman.

26 Section Sergeant: Sgt R. Greenhowe.

Since the last notes were written, we have moved from the land of Castles and Public Duties and taken over a new camp in Minden, in the land of King Size Sausages and beer.

In the middle of March, Company HQ was sadly depleted by the loss of C/Sgt A. Strathdee and Pte "Steakie Pie" McKay on the Advance Party to BAOR. However, the remainder struggled gamely on until the 24th, when, blessed relief, the Company went on block embarkation leave. Suffice to say that on the morning of the 25th, "B" Company lines closely resembled the aftermath of a nuclear explosion, harbouring all the sad remnants of the Battalion. And so goodbye to Redford this time round. What new changes will greet us when next we meet.

By the 7th of May, the Company had re-assembled in St. George's Barracks, with the sad exception of "The Major", who was lost somewhere in Europe with his newly-wedded wife.

Quite a few of the advance party went straight on to Dortmund Beer and Cadres, and the remainder to the boxing team. Training has started on a Section basis, but mils and metres are causing headaches to some of the older members of the sections. The Mortar and Anti-Tank Sections are now preparing for the Battalion concentration when, after full training, there is the BAOR Support Weapons Concentration at Putlos (where there is a rumoured Nudist Colony) at the end of June. We welcome Cpl Murray, Ptes Wright, Hay, Wiseman, to the Mortar Section. We wish them every success in the Mortar world. Luckily we don't have to say farewell to anyone this time. The section are sweating up on their German in preparation for the visit. Location, details and experiences will be described in the next issue.

The Sergeant-Major and the Clerk are buckling down to the task of sorting out the untidy heap of stationery, files, and desks which comprise "B" Company Office. To give credit where credit is due, Cpl "Lecky" James did have the office sorted out to some extent before we arrived.

The "Colour" and Pte McKay also had the stores fairly well organised, and Company HQ soon settled down to its usual routine; "Geordie" in the chair, Pte L. Galbraith as Company Martyr, "Big Spud" as Arms Storeman, Ptes W. Gill and McKay in the Stores, and "The Coop File" gamely persevering as the Company Commander's batman.

We welcome to "B" Company, Sgt Ashbridge, L/Cpl Duncan, Ptes McKillop, Garden, Thow, Feighery, McNamara and we also welcome back our Berlin Platoon. We also welcome Cpl K. Anderson to the Company as our new Signals Rep. Cpl Ander-

son is one of the few remaining personnel who have mastered the art of disappearing from 0600 hrs until 1630 hrs, except for weekly appearances on Pay Parade. Recently attached to Company HQ are Pte "Snowy" White, who is at present Acting Company Greyhound, and L/Cpl G. Leslie as Amender-in-Chief of "B" Company Pamphlets.

Congratulations to Cpls J. MacGillivray and G. Reid on the addition of a son to each of their families, and to Pte D. Christie on the addition of a daughter.

The only other thing worthy of note is the attempt by Ptes W. Gill and P. Murphy to undermine the NAAFI. All thanks for services rendered.

"C" (TRAINING) COMPANY

Company Commander: Major W. D. R. West.

Company Second-in-Command: Lieutenant D. H. White.

Recce Platoon Commander: Lieutenant G. H. Peebles.

Company Sergeant Major: CSM G. Symon.

Training Wing Sergeant Major: WO2 J. Dryburgh.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant: C/Sgt B. Boyd.

Assault Pioneer Platoon: Sgt T. Cossar.

The Company was the first organised force on the ground in Germany from the battalion and since the day of arrival, no one has put their feet up. The Sergeant Major, thank heavens, has not even had enough time to light his evil smelling pipe! Walker, the clerk, has not rested his ever active fingers from the typewriter for many weeks. Harvey, who has been acting as runner and the Company Commander's orderly is now as lean and fit as he has ever been and has recovered from his blisters.

"It's all go", as the Sergeant Major says. The various different types of Cadres have probably taken up most of the time so far and especially the "A" Cadres, to train drivers for the battalion. Inexperience with the Armoured Personnel Carriers led to many shaky movements during the first of these Cadres. Nothing would go right and at one point, six out of twelve vehicles were off the road. No one flapped but the programme had be very flexible. The climax of the Cadre was four glorious sunny days at Soltau. The vehicles were all loaded on to flats at Minden on the Friday and a large party was sent up on Saturday to meet the train at Soltau and off load them. No train, however, arrived at Soltau, but it was eventually announced that the train was still in Minden. Marvellous! German railways must be as bad as British Railways.

The Commanders' Cadres and the short Cadres for the senior ranks have caused little trouble. It has been heard that Captain Bruce and Major Robertson had to strip to their underpants and swim under a bogged vehicle in order to attach the tow rope. A photograph of this episode was taken but has been censored for publication.

The Company, in spite of its small size, has been outstanding in the field of sport. The hockey team has defeated the Military Band, much to their disgust, on at least two occasions and also got through the first round in the Brigade six-a-sides. The team drew with HQ Company in a friendly game 3-3, again to their disgust. In the battalion athletic meeting, Corporal Bruce won the one hundred metres and the hammer. Sergeant Trenham won the pole vault and the tug-o-war teams both got into the finals. The heavy team defeated "B" Company in the finals, spurred on by the gallant but noisy crew of Colour Sergeant Boyd

We give a warm welcome to Sergeant Major Dryburgh and wish both him and the Company Commander luck with the running of the battalion classification, while Lieutenant White continues to assist in the churning out of Armoured Personnel Carrier drivers. Morale will remain high in "C" Company so long as Private Farquhar continues to receive the monthly edition of "Playboy."

RECCE PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Lieutenant G. H. Peebles.
Platoon Sergeant: Sergeant W. Fraser.

Well the time has come again to let our readers know how the Recce Platoon live and work. Since our last notes we have had our Non Commissioned Officers away on various courses, in preparation for our role in British Army of the Rhine.

The Platoon Armoured Personnel Carrier Commanders, Corporals Douglas, Rae and Henderson, have all been to Bovington and attended a 432 course and as all good Recce Non Commissioned Officers should, passed with flying colours and have all been landed with the job of training the rest of the battalion. Lance Corporal McArthur attended a 432 course at Warminster and after driving his instructors out of their minds for twenty-four days, he also passed.

Corporal Philip is also back from a course, but this time a weapons course, lasting three months in rain and snow and on the south coast of England!

We have now settled down in our new station and are all busy training for the hard work that lies ahead of us, but as ever the Recce never fails to do what is thrown their way. We are pleased to welcome back Private Aitken, after his stay in Berlin with the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders and he assures us he is one of the few highly-trained soldiers in the British Army of the Rhine, but of course the Platoon has its own views on that statement!

The Platoon Commander has left us again for United Kingdom to get himself "jacked up" on signals at Hythe. Sergeant Fraser is at present doing a 432 driving cadre and after managing to damage the garage doors, is coming on fine, or so he assures us! Time will tell again!

Corporal Duncan, after about three years of moaning, has at last managed to get himself on a driving cadre, so we are all waiting patiently for the result of that. One of our new arrivals in the platoon is from signals, Corporal Reid, who has the job of getting the platoon trained signalwise and listening to some of the voice procedure. He has a job on his hands.

We also welcome Privates Lovie and McPetrie from the Depot and hope they will have an enjoyable stay with us. Well, we have had a few family additions since our last notes, they are to Corporal Philip, Privates "Ginger" Edwards and the surprise of them all, "Leggies" Ewing.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Platoon Sergeant: Sergeant T. Cossar.

We have now arrived safely in Germany, but the last few weeks in Edinburgh were hectic indeed. All the battalion baggage passed through our hands at one time or another and was sent safely on its way to Germany, after being duly weighed, stencilled and numbered, etc.

The Platoon also "dug in" two mexe shelters on the hills beside Castlelaw ranges, for the approval

or disapproval of various visiting officers. We used explosives for one pit, and although the results were satisfactory, the amount of water which seeped in, was not. However everything went according to plan and the cold winds, snow and sleet, made all work hard to keep warm.

It was during this task that we discovered how friendly the local sheep could be, as can be seen by the accompanying photograph of Corporal Hossack feeding them. They literally ate out of our hands! (Corporal Hossack is the one with the hat on).

Since our arrival in Germany we have been brought up to something like the strength we should be and take this opportunity to welcome Privates Anderson, Henderson, Hubbard, Nokes and Wilkinson from the Depot and Privates Crombie and Forsyth from "D" Company and HQ Company respectively. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one. At the same time we wish that stalwart of the Platoon, Private Ross, a pleasant stay at the Depot, where he has been posted. He is missed amongst the old un's.

Training has started and now the Platoon know how to look after tools, as well as use them, recognise types of mines, make their own booby traps, and last but not least, tie all sorts of knots and lashings.

We had hoped to be attached to 3 Troop, 1 Field Engineer Regiment, who are our support troop, for a week's practice in floating vehicles across a river. Unfortunately this fell through, but we still have hopes of going to Hameln with them for two weeks' bridging and flotation.

When we go to Sennelager later this summer, we will be practising "battle simulations" and demolitions as well as handling assault boats.

The Company beer bar is going well, and Private Greening has often been seen at night armed with paint brushes and paint pots, attempting to improve its appearance. Lately though he usually has a handful of darts. Whilst mentioning the Company bar, we have discovered that Private "Razor Blades" Wilkinson, has a flair for drawing and the walls are now covered with cartoons of "Andy Cap".

Swimming has become a popular form of sport on Wednesday afternoons and now that the news has leaked out that there is bags of talent at the Halle Bad swimming baths, the Platoon Sergeant is even talking of going down there. It seems to be here that Private Nokes is learning German, chatting up the fourteen-year-old birds.

Corporal Hossack is attending German language classes for beginners. What was he doing for the three years in Celle.

In closing these notes we wish to congratulate Privates Flynn, Whyte and Hubbard on the birth of a son to each and ask if this is how the latter got the nick-name of "Old daddy Hubbard!".

"D" COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major I. McK. Robertson.
Company Second in Command: Captain G. M. Neil.
Company Sergeant Major: C/Sgt C. A. Campbell.
Company Quartermaster Sergeant: C/Sgt P. Williams.
41 Platoon Commander: Lt M. P. Taitt.
41 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt A. Anderson.
42 Platoon Commander: 2/Lt A. D. P. Ross.
42 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt R. Gillies.
44 Platoon Commander: Lt R. S. Hunter-Blair.
45 Detachment Sergeant: Sgt J. Will.
46 Detachment Sergeant: Sgt I. Robb.

Before going on Christmas leave we had heard talk in higher places about the mechanised Infantry Battalion and the common reaction to this was "What in the ????? is that", we were soon to find out.

The Company arrived back, looking slightly plumper and somewhat redder in the face, after the Christmas break but ready to get down to some real work, now that ceremonial duties had all but finished.

The cadres which had been started before Christmas, were continued in real earnest. It became abundantly clear that Jock had to be Jock of all trades and master of all. He was to become an expert driver, signaller, map reader, sharp shooter or maybe all four combined.

After some excellent initial instruction by Cpl Hannah of the RMP from Minden we had to set to and learn the German Highway Code—the fearsome Matrix Test with not a few unmentionable characters trying, trying and trying yet again to pass. By this time the Company instructors could be heard mumbling German words and signs whilst in fitful sleep.

During this hectic time the Sergeant Major was desperately trying to work out permutations for sending men on leave before going to BAOR. He might just as well have tried to get a winning line on the football pools. Anyway nearly all had some leave of one sort or another.

Moves to foreign parts are nothing to us and preparations went smoothly. The first party of the Company left Edinburgh on 14th March, followed on the 16th by the second party, who had a long last look at Edinburgh Airport as their plane was delayed by four hours.

There was slight concern in the first flight when a person who shall remain nameless turned up with one child more than he had declared on his form. He said that he had so many kids that he had forgotten about this one. We are told that the child is legal and above board and who are we to disbelieve him!

By the beginning of April all the Company had arrived safely in Germany. APC Cadres were in full swing and it was incredible the change from the man who eyed with extreme suspicion the vast 14 tons of metal looming up before him at the start of the cadre, to the same man driving with extreme confidence, this same 14 tons of metal anywhere or almost anywhere. Anywhere has been tried with some startling results!

Although we are largely chairborne warriors in our APCs, the physical fitness aspect of training has not been forgotten and the Company has been having plenty of gym circuit training, athletics training, and route marches, as well as the ordinary aspect. The idea that you never take any physical exercise in BAOR has been dispelled for ever.

In the middle of the month certain members of the Company went on the Bde Command Post Exercise "First Parade". This proved most enjoyable and we all learned a great deal including the APC Drivers who had done very little driving at night.

On the 28th April a very enjoyable Brigade Sports day was held although the Company didn't do extraordinarily well, they performed with plenty of guts and enthusiasm.

The Inter-Company Athletics Meeting was held on 6th May. The Company had done training under 2/Lt Alan Ross and were quietly confident of doing reasonably well. By the end of the afternoon we had

astonished everyone, not least ourselves, by winning the Inter-Company Cup by 50 clear points from "A" Company. All the Company teams performed very well but I feel mention might be made of Pte Winning and 2/Lt Ross in the sprints; Cpl Downie in the middle distance events, and Farmer, Oles and Lawton in the field events. We must also congratulate the Light Tug-o'-War team, Sgt Will, Cpls Ross, Campbell, Ptes Lawrence, MacLennan, Hall, Farmer, Dick and coach Sgt Gillies, who pulled magnificently to win the event. The heavy team did well but came across a strong team from "B" Company. Apart from the normal events there were some very amusing Children's, Old Soldiers', Company Commanders' and CQMS's races. We feel sure that whatever heavy responsibilities the Adjutant has borne before, were nothing to the one he was landed with on this Saturday afternoon!

A good start has been made in Germany, and I am sure that there is no one who doesn't fully realise what a lot of hard work lies ahead if we are to be an efficient member of the Battalion.

In passing, we must congratulate C/Sgt Campbell and Sgt Anderson for taking the plunge, and to say goodbye to Cpl Ross, one of the Company characters, from the Company Office. What the Platoon Commanders are going to do without his cigarettes and his knowledge of everything to do with the Company, heaven knows, but we wish him all the best in the Orderly Room.

ADVANCE PARTY APC 432 CADRE

By 24090062 Pte D. Wilson-Paisley

On the 20th March fourteen of "D" Company personnel joined other members of the Bn Advance Party on the first APC Cadre. The course was both long and comprehensive but interest and progress were by no means deficient.

The cadre commenced with an address by the CO and a lecture by Capt Cowan, OC REME Det. An introduction to the vehicle followed. The cadre was divided up into crews of four or five and then guided around the garage and stores where all articles of equipment were brought to our notice. Frequently, while moving from A to B in our groups, our apprehensions were aroused by the approach of one or two of the huge formidable monsters, thundering along the roadway past the garages. However, we soon became familiar with the raucous clamour of the engines and the spasmodic belchings of the exhaust which at night were blinding as well as deafening.

By Friday of the first week we were ready to take control of the vehicle, which at first was undertaken on the field at Minderheide, the large space (not easily distinguishable from the valley of the Somme of 51 years ago) behind the football field. The following week we continued driving at Minderheide, performing the basic drills and procedures, concentrating on careful driving and manoeuvring over mound through ditch. After a demonstration of track breaking and assembling, a task which we had to perform as well, we were ready for the road. The majority of the cadre had passed the Matrix test, including all "D" Company personnel. One who shall be nameless succeeded in passing it after only eight attempts. However, hard work on his part produced a competent driver.

Most vehicles' crews managed to get away from St Georges Barracks without a mishap, except one,

namely Cpl Henderson. His vehicle, Pte Farmer informed us, was in collision with a larger lorry and trailer which had persisted cogently in overtaking just as the APC had completed a turn on a bend, not ten minutes from camp. The lorry evidently escaped with not more than a scratch, whereas the 432 lost a complete offside track guard. Another incident occurred on the route to Nienburg, when Pte Murphy of "B" Coy, having learnt of the vehicle's unquestionably good performance, proceeded to mount a tree; only to learn afterwards that the vehicle only climbs vertical objects of not more than two feet.

On the 10th, the cadre embarked during the small hours of the morning, for Soltau training area. Here we spent the next four days doing cross country training, and were confronted with many a practical task and exercise adding to our now many experiences. On the 12th, many of the cadre were able to take their cross country tests, and all except one were successful. The following and last two days were spent on road tests. Thankfully everyone passed and were much relieved to have finished the cadre. The weekend over, we were ready to start another week, but not with 432s.

HQ COMPANY

Company Commander: Major K. I. H. Lumsden.
CSM: WO II G. Rose.
CQMS: C/Sgt P. Watt.

Since our last notes, we have certainly had our moments in Company HQ. We think we may have succeeded in getting the Company Airborne, but we shall be able to verify this by the time of next issue, when we have had time to take stock.

There were moments of panic, when one Jock arrived at the Airport with his brood, and when asked for his family flight ticket, exclaimed to Madam, "That wis yon thing that we left on the table in the hoose in Gleska". By some means he managed to recover the document from Glasgow before takeoff. He is the chap who is still pechin' yet.

There were moments of exasperation when another client arrived on the morning of the flight with three children instead of the expected two. His story was, "I didna ken that the ither een wis comin', when the flicht lists wir being made out".

We are now well established in our new abode and all is well.

Due to the Transfer of Pte Inglis to Brigade HQ, there is a vacancy for a runner in Company HQ. The main qualifications are:—extremely mobile; good sense of direction; capable of carrying large quantities of correspondence; carrier pigeon considered.

ORDERLY ROOM AND INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Captain C. H. Van der Noot: Adjutant.
Captain R. M. Kinghorn: Assistant Adjutant.
Lt D. M. Napier: Intelligence Officer.
ORQMS A. G. West: Chief Clerk.
Sergeant J. Jordan: Orderly Room Clerk.
Sergeant J. Moir: Intelligence Sergeant.

Orderly Room

After several threats of extra duty clerks and ultimately that of the Guardroom, one of the junior clerks has kindly consented to compile the following notes.

You may remember, if you bothered to read our last notes, that we promised to head these notes with a photograph of the staff. We are sorry to disappoint you once again, but the man to blame (or thank?) is the Battalion Photographer, Pte Mike Rapley, who failed to turn up. He has since been relegated to the Int Sec but, like the proverbial bad penny, he will probably find his way back to us before long.

As one moves out, another moves in. This time, we welcome Pte Robbie Trotter to our happy home. He appears to be settling in all right but has already got into the habit of scrutinising every posting vacancy that occurs.

Another addition to the family is our civilian typist, Miss Martin, who was found to be on our inventory on arrival in BAOR. Her presence appears to have caused a change in the language here and even the RSM seems to be a lot quieter when taking Commanding Officer's Orders. We hope she will enjoy her stay with us, as we know we will.

Since our last notes, chevrons have sprung up in unexpected places. Has someone managed to forge OIC Records' signature? However, we congratulate Sgt Jordan and Cpl Kenny Addison on their promotion.

Another one to be congratulated is Cpl Les Chalmers on the birth of his daughter. At the moment he is still trying to get over the defeat of the Dons by Celtic. L/Cpl Morrison, another staunch supporter is equally depressed but he is considering transferring his affections to the reserve team as they don't seem to be playing so badly.

Pte Dougie McAllan is still on our strength, but apparently only during working hours. After that he appears to be on the strength of the Beer Bar.

Well, that seems to have included everyone, so . . . hmmm, nearly forgot the head man himself, WO II West. He is still keeping fit and active. Indeed, he was the only competitor from the Orderly Room in the recent Battalion Sports Meeting. He and the Adjutant took us all by surprise by taking part in the Adjt/ORQMS Race. We feel the Adjutant was also suprised when he tried to take the ORQMS on his back, and judging by his expression, it was no mean feat. We are glad to see they were not last. The ORQMS also entered for the old soldiers' race and was last seen being hotly pursued by Major Miers with his shooting stick. We are not sure whether or not this acted as a goad to the Chief Clerk!!!! It was certainly a day of events, especially since the Chief Clerk insists he takes part in sports afternoon when he opens his window every Wednesday.

Well that must be it for this issue as we don't want to fill the magazine.

Intelligence Section

Since our last venture into journalism we have moved to pastures new, from the austere confines of Redford Barracks and Edinburgh Castle to the wide open spaces of Soltau, Sennelager, etc.

On its merits our judgement is reserved until the next issue, by then we hope to have our heads far enough above water to enjoy much more the delights of our new surroundings.

Life has been hectic to say the least, for hardly had we time to unpack our boxes than we were frantically preparing for exercise First Parade. As no complaints have been received one can surely assume that we passed our initiation—but what happened on the way to Almena, Sir?

Back in our "workshop" Pte Watt sits blissfully memorizing the BMH (Maternity Wing) telephone number while Pte Henry looks longingly every morning for a letter with a Stonehaven postmark. Cpl Smith, too, married and demobbed all in one year! Well, it had to happen sooner or later. As a long standing member of the Petticoat Rule I can only hope that the IO at least heeds my advice. Our next notes should prove very interesting.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Quartermaster: Captain (QM) W. J. R. Dawson.
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant: RQMS R. S. Hay, BEM.

G 1098: C/Sgt A. Williams.

Master Tailor: S/Sgt A. Dack, RAOC.

Pioneer Sergeant: Sgt T. McGillivray.

We will open our notes this time with extending a hearty welcome to our new QM, Captain W. J. R. Dawson. Welcome aboard, Sir, we offer you our deepest sympathy in inheriting this motley crew.

Of course, no welcoming of a new boss comes without the farewell to the old. We wish Major (QM) Charlie Michie all the best in his quiet and sort of rural life at Cultybraggan.

The move to BAOR went smoothly and up to expectations, the march out at Redford being such that it merited a mention in Battalion Orders. The march in to St George's Barracks, Minden, was a very amicable, if somewhat scattered undertaking. C/Sgt Williams was finding it rather difficult to accept and sign for G 1098 kit that was still being used on exercise.

Sticky Wood and his armourers have a sort of temporary detachment under the LAD; we are assured though that they will still recognise and speak to us when meeting.

The Master Stitches staff has been augmented by the posting in of Cpl Sumner, RAOC. Staff Dack reckons that he has a potential substitute for Dave King in his hands. Still he is in the right section to have his colleagues in stitches.

We have also in the staff now, a deputy QM in the form of Frau Rossner, typist and interpreter to be more correct. She has been employed for some years in the BAOR and has a certificate for Meritorious Service. If she manages to keep L/Cpl Lemon and Pte Thomson in their place, I think we'll recommend her for the CDM as well. The staff should take advantage of her ability to teach German, it would save some embarrassment, i.e., L/Cpl Rab Taylor was caught seriously asking for six snochter dichters in a local shop, he was convinced by another brilliant member of the staff that it was German for handkerchiefs.

The QM's Club, after a bit of teething trouble, is running smoothly. The occasional dart matches are well attended and seem to be quite popular and successful, although no one seems to be able to relate the next morning the score or who won. Still it's the sport that counts, not the score.

UFO/PRI

Major M. A. C. Stephen: Unit Families Officer.
President Regimental Institutes.
Unit Records Officer.
Welfare Officer.

C/Sgt J. A. Somers: Families NCO.

Cpl T. A. Wilson: PRI NCO.

L/Cpl G. J. Mitchell: I/C PRI Transport.

If you happen at any time to be short of an infants' feeding bottle, a President for a Court Martial or a little of the "ready" then you have entered the right department!

C/Sgt Somers joined at short notice and moved over from UK to Germany together with our Circus, comprising one Leyland Leopard Coach and one Mobile Canteen. You name it, we had it in those vehicles, anything from a Hoovermatic washing machine to a Gestetner. Little wonder that the Dutch Customs at Rotterdam were somewhat perplexed and held us up for three hours.

We have now been in Minden seven weeks and have housed a total of two hundred and six of our families with a few more still to come. All were met by a smiling/grim faced UFO, depending on whether the aircraft was on time or three hours late!

The majority of our families are housed in flats either of four or eight levels. They are extremely well appointed, and all centrally heated. We are running a book on the first block to be undermined and brought crashing down by the shovels and pails of our more adventurous "kinder"!

A battalion Cinema has been started in the Camp and we have acquired a Ford bus and a Minibus, bringing our "fleet" to four vehicles. A little difficulty in passing our "jockeys" out on a PSV licence test meantime keeps L/Cpl Mitchell hopping around like a Pony Express Rider!

It might appear that the UFO has his hands full, but that is not altogether the case as he is shortly attending a Course, in the fond hope of qualifying as a Unit Testing Officer. One must be "with it" these days to keep in touch with conversation which ranges from "throwing a track" to a failure of the power booster box, or whatever it is.

This must wind up this editions' contributions as we are all urgently required to attend the rescue of the occupants of a flat whose "kellers" are knee-deep in water! The little darlings!?!?

SAKAI

SIGNAL PLATOON

Signals Officer: Capt D. M. H. Du Boulay.
Asst Signals Officer: Lt R. M. Carr Smith, R Sigs.
Signals S/Sgt: S/Sgt I. Mitchell.
Signals Sgt: Sgt R. Carter.
Radio Sgt: Sgt J. Grant.

A choruses of "Deutschland—Deutschland" fade gently into the distance and the last drink of the evening is drained, I turn my pen nostalgically once more on to the naked foolscap to write the Signal Platoon notes. The Signal Platoon has just opened its own bar and the opening night was used to say our sad farewells to Capt R. G. D. Bruce our last signals officer, and to extend a warm welcome to Capt D. M. H. Du Boulay and Lt R. M. Carr Smith.

People would naturally assume that if the Platoon has a bar, it would be the Signals bar, but L/Cpl N. Donald seems to have taken it for his own, and rumour has it that if he does not get married quarters soon, he will flog the beer and turn it into a bedsitter. We must, however, congratulate him on making our bar a "going concern".

We must also take the opportunity to welcome our Royal Signals detachment consisting of Cpl Connor, Cpl Pearce, L/Cpl Kneale and L/Cpl Chapman, all of whom have given us invaluable advice on our conversion to communicating in a mechanised battalion.

At last we come to our activities during the last three months. For weeks of patient instruction the battalion had dealt with the intricate differences of radio harnesses in APC's. We arrived here to find that every vehicle was fitted with the basic harness which is only too simple to operate. (Well, to some people). However, after two months we were busy installing the new and complicated harnesses until the inside of the vehicles somewhat resembled a spaghetti store. The majority of the Platoon have been involved in Driving Cadres, Commanders' Cadres and Familiarisation Cadres. Sgt Carter has been spotted at least twice in the last two months and both times he emerged, covered in OMD 110 from beneath a tracked hulk to see if the battalion was still with him.

We must also congratulate Sgt J. Grant on his recent promotion.

In general, the Platoon is in good heart and most of us have taken an immediate interest in the training. We hope now to get down to the job in hand and with the aid of Cadres throughout the year, become proficient in every aspect of Battalion communications.

MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

MTO: Capt QM G. H. Dunn.

TQMS: WOII J. Leggatt.

MT Sgt: Sgt J. Easson.

FAMTO Sgt: Sgt G. MacDonald.

Bn HQ MT Sgt: Sgt R. Buchan.

Our last allocation of 500 words was used in saying good-bye as a Department. Our demise has not come to pass, all that has happened is that a reduced number of drivers and vehicles have to do more miles and hours work. Our readers will know that "fetching and carrying" in BAOR usually means to and from places at least 50 miles from our base, usually more.

The MTO with a small advance party took over vehicles in March from 1 RWF. Then began the job of driving on the "other" side of the road, in some cases a hazardous business. However we are now all going the same way, and this makes life much easier.

Beveridge, Baillie and Aitken had a particularly trying time putting in thousands of miles during the first four weeks due to rules designed to prevent quick availability of Permits to Drive in Germany for newly arrived drivers.

We have lost some of our "card holders" to places like Brigade HQ—Morrison 62; UFO/PRI combine McGregor, Donald 60, Melville; Minden Amenities Club — Reid 95.

The increased admin load has seen the installation of Cpl Simmers as Details NCO — guaranteed to talk anyone out of needing transport! Sphinx-like Skene — but not in the club — improving his typing; a pity it has to be FMT 3 though. With the MTO spending most of his time testing APC drivers and the MT Sgt training Stalwart drivers we hope soon to get them back at their respective desks and answer some mail.

The MT Club is a good going concern. Cpl "Petrol Willie" Gordon, Pte "Gabby" Rutherford and "Bovril" Beveridge are joint Props. A lot of work has gone into redecoration, wallpaper, etc. and it is now looking more like a club. L/Cpl Donald has a permanent chair which he is allowed to fall off on occasions — uneven floor of course.

Being able to drive an APC is no doubt a desirable qualification, but if you want to see the world,

our part of it anyway, wheels are the thing. The Calendar of Events indicates plenty of opportunity will be given us.

Incidentally, our last issue mentioned L/Cpl "Cabby" McKnight leaving the service — he was no sooner out and married when he was back with us. He could just as easily have got married without his Discharge Book we think. Nice to see him back.

Cpl Gill had second thoughts and extended his service for a further six years. He and Sgt MacDonald disposed of our vehicles in Edinburgh to 1 Scots Guards and the MT stores to 1 Royal Highland Fusiliers prior to moving to Germany — a job well done. The first time it has been recorded on tape we hear, some people cannot believe their own ears perhaps.

PIPE BAND

Pipe President: Major K. I. H. Lumsden.

Drum Major: Sgt G. Hall.

Pipe Major: Sgt J. Kerr.

Since the last notes were published the number of "Public Duties" have become considerably less and recently the emphasis has been more on practice and a certain amount of training.

January

Cpl Brian Huntington arrived back from his two years' holiday at the Junior Soldiers' Company at the Highland Brigade Depot. We reckon it was a holiday, but he maintains that a "Labour Camp" is a more appropriate comparison. With him came two ex-Junior Soldiers, Dmr Harper and Ppr MacPherson. We sent L/Cpl Brian Gregory in exchange.

For a week from the 16th the Drum Major, Pipe Major and Cpls McLaren and Huntington were on a Signals Cadre which ended with three days at Hythe on a 432 Signals Conversion Course. Cpl Harrop was to have been on the same course but he found himself detailed (he definitely did not volunteer) to stand in for the Post Cpl, who was away on leave. He then went straight on to ACE I along with two other learned companions, L/Cpls Jaffray and Stewart.

February

Only one band engagement this month and that was at the film premiere of "Khartoum" (we had already done the same thing in Glasgow a few weeks previous).

On the 4th, Pprs Stuart and Davies played at the wedding of Captain R. G. D. Bruce and on the 11th the Pipe Major and Cpl Harrop played at the wedding of Major D. H. W. Brown, MC.

There were Quarter Guards at Edinburgh Castle during the State visits of Mr. Kosygin, the Russian Premier, and the President of Iceland. Dmr Sievright and L/Cpl Stewart were called upon for the latter and Dmr Martin and Ppr Smith for the former.

L/Cpl Jaffray played at Turnhouse Airport during the arrival of the flight carrying the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Colours of the 1st Bn Scots Guards.

Congratulations are due to Pipe Major and Mrs. Kerr on the birth of a son, Colin, born on the 16th. This must surely be "Kerr Year." Congratulations also went to Ppr and Mrs. MacRae on the addition to their family of a daughter.

On the 27th we "cut" an LP record. Big John Seiwright is talking of starting a fan club.

March

On the 2nd we recorded a half hour programme for the BBC Scotland. (This was broadcast on the 26th of April.) Our drums had left for Germany under the care of L/Cpl Mitchell, who was driving the PRI bus across, and the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band very kindly came to the rescue by lending us theirs.

Pipers Campbell and Knox, on returning from a week-end in London, had quite a shake-up when the train on which they were travelling was de-railed near Peterborough on the night of the 5th. We are pleased to say that neither of them was injured in any way.

For the next fortnight, with all our kit packed, we were assisting in baggage collection and loading it on to railway vans, etc., a job most of us are quite used to by now.

One of our members, who shall remain nameless, had quite a shock on receiving a letter from Vernons Football Pools, informing him that he had eight draws and had won the vast sum of £10,000. After demanding his "ticket" and asking the CSM for immediate leave, he was sadly informed that some person or persons unknown had been having him on.

April

Shortly after our arrival here in Minden some of us went on the first Exercise in which Bn HQ was taking part. Travelling in the 432s was a bit strange at first but by the end of the Exercise we were quite used to it.

Ppr MacMillan and Dmrs Oliphant and Thomson are at present learning to drive and maintain a 432 so that when we take our two 432s out there will be at least three people who know what they are on. The Pipe Major has already passed his test.

Congratulations are due here to Ppr Cruickshank and Mrs. Cruickshank on the birth of a son, their first.

On Sunday the 30th we made our first public appearance in Minden, when we played in one of the Public Parks along with the Military Band. It was quite well received.

May

On the 1st, along with our Military Band and the Band and Drums of the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment, we visited the Royal Netherland Airforce at Hessich, Oldendorf. It was a long day for us as it began at 0700hrs when we played Band Reveille for them. It was 0730hrs before we had completed it, having marched round the Camp and then down the road and all round the Married Quarters. The afternoon performance by the Massed Bands was also well received as was proved by the generous dispensing of refreshments by our hosts.

On Wednesday the 3rd "The Tartan Dive," our department club and bar, was officially opened and from the start it appears to be a success.

As we end, we extend our best wishes to Willie Gow and Dave Mellay, both of whom were married prior to leaving Edinburgh.

MILITARY BAND

Our last notes were concluded as we were going on leave after our Christmas Festivities, therefore the first entry in this column is to report that all ranks found their way back to Redford Barracks safe and sound.

January

Our first job, after the return to the Grindstone, was our own Officers' Mess Guest Night, Overheard; Commanding Officer: "What would you like to play next for us?" Bdsm Coventry: "Goodnight and Joy be wi' ye a, Sir".

We went to Aberdeen for another Passing Out Parade (our 750th, or so it seems). Whilst we were there we also played a concert in the Bridge of Don School, and it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces from the Depot, including our own Cpl Harry Shand who, rumour has it, is destined for a Bandmasters' course at Kneller Hall. We also met up again with our friends from the 3rd Battalion Band. It was hardly a surprise really, because we were billeted in the TA Hall at Woolmanhill.

We returned to Edinburgh for another Guest Night, this time at Headquarters, Scottish Command.

The last event in the month was a trip to Glasgow—not to Hampden Park as is usually the case—but to the Dockyards, for the occasion of the launching of Sir Geraint, an Army ship (is there such a thing as a Naval APC). At the crucial moment the ship was blessed, the champagne bottle was broken on her bows, but she didn't budge an inch. After much consultation on how she should be moved, she slipped down the runway and floated away down the Clyde.

In the next day's editions of the "Mirror"—there was a photograph of the ship, with Sgt Owen in the foreground, or was it a photograph of Rabbie with the ship in the background—it was a good "snap" anyway, and a copy of it found its way into Rabbie's Military Album.

February

We played at a Church Service in the cookhouse, and were honoured with the presence of an insurance representative who gave the Battalion an interesting lecture on his line of business. One of the hymns was, by a sheer coincidence, "Blessed Assurance", no doubt Padre Lawson was, or will be, an insurance rep at some time.

When Mr Kosygin visited Edinburgh, the Band played at the reception given in his honour in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle, Bdsm Terry Foley having to play his timpani on the staircase outside as there wasn't enough room on the Balcony. Two members of the fanfare team declared that they play three notes—but they deemed it worthwhile when paid £1, the fantastic rate of pay for the above two being 6/8d for each note played.

The next two weeks were spent in the production of two L.P.s for the E.M.I. label—these should be available shortly for the benefit of all our fans.

Our trombone section, entering into the spirit of the thing, made a record of their own—the notable feature on it being Cpl Goodsell's arrangement of "Laura".

We then had our Band photograph taken and so concluded a most fruitful month.

March

Most of March was taken up by embarkation leave for Germany, and nearly everyone came back with faces as long as fiddles, but most of us have settled down to life in Minden and are getting on quite well with the local populace.

employ our Dance Band. Please get your orders in

A word of warning to anyone who wishes to A.S.P.; the Orderly Room have set the pace by



Military Band Concert at Rathaus, Bielefeld, 21st May, 1967.

booking them in February for their Dinner/Dance on December 8th. (Moral—Book Early for Christmas).

Whilst we were in transit for Germany, BdsM "Topper" Brown was trying to remember where he had left his kit bag. When he arrived at Hannover Airport he had everyone in a flap looking for it, then he exclaimed: "I remember where it is, I sent it by MFO". He also remarked, with his usual straightforwardness and carefully chosen words: "THEY" drove on the other side of the road.

We all managed to arrive safely in Minden anyway and once we had settled in our hockey team soon found itself some opposition—playing teams from the DERR, The Black Watch and BMH Rinteln.

We played at the Dutch Royal Air Force base at Hessish Oldendorf for the Celebrations upon the birth of Princess Beatrix's son, and the following week we went back, together with our Drums and Pipes and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Band for a combined retreat.

In the near future we have retreats all over the place, and elsewhere besides, with most of the other bands in the Division, where we hope to meet many old friends, and ex-Knellerites.

Much time has been spent getting our own personal Club set up in the band block, most of the work done by BdsM Bob Begg and L/Cpl Nick Nichols (who is taking bets on Spurs winning the Cup). These two stalwarts seem to have boundless energy and make life ever so pleasant for the living in members.

So far we have had visitors from the two other bands in the station—and a few Orderly Sgts have paid us nocturnal visits. Our old friend "Beastie" Robb has visited us from his Black Watch berth and we have seen many old friends from Depot and Kneller hall days, who have been dragged here by him.

BdsM "Bugs" Little has incorporated many ideas into the decor of the Club bar and was almost successful in his plea to be allowed to knock a wall



Bandmaster Harper being presented with a book at Bielefeld by the Director of Police after playing at the Police Sports, Bielefeld, on 21st May, 1967.



Sgt Owen. Sir Geraint in the background.

down in order to make more room. He has also done small wonders with papier-mache and his little fishes and lighthouse dominate the walls.

We would like to offer congratulations to L/Cpl and Mrs. Bannerman on the birth of their son; L/Cpl and Mrs Lamond on the birth of their son; and BdsM Willie Chalmers on his marriage.

BdsM D. Simpson arrived from the Depot shortly after our arrival, and can be seen smoking his Bassoon at every band practice.

We have had official "Complaints" from the Adjutant, Captain Van der Noot, that we haven't cheered him up in the morning—Captain Bull, the Paymaster, seconded this—I think that these Gentlemen are now satisfied with our "March round" the Barracks each morning—and we get many requests for tunes from quite a few people besides.

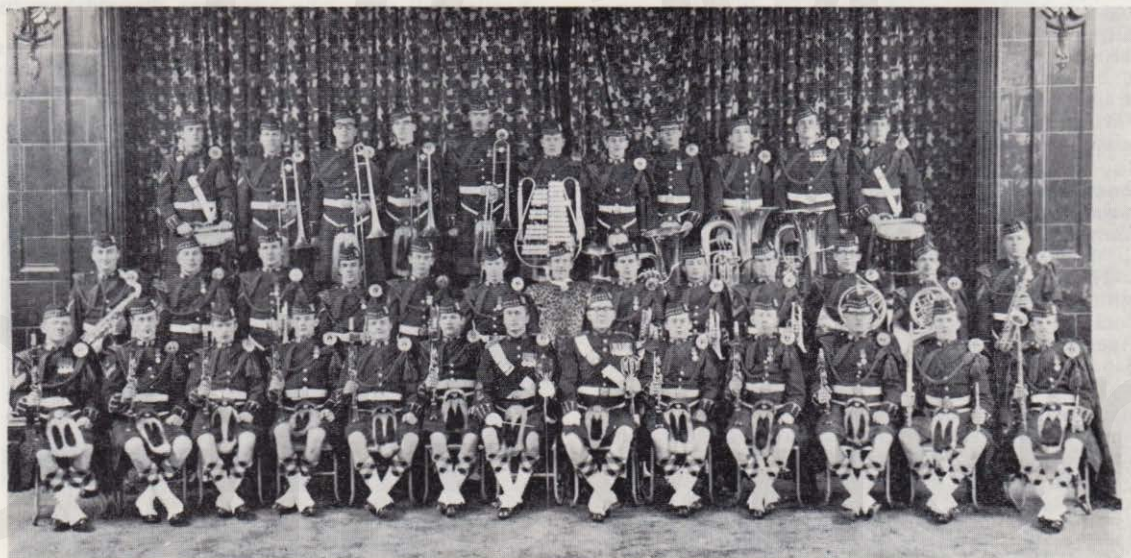
Other "Complaints" include one from BdsM Johnny Tough that he often loses his way from the Stores in the mornings, when he is still half asleep, trying to find the ablutions. L/Cpl Jack Lamond



German schoolgirl teaching Sgt Forsyth how to play the cornet.

had cause to crib after he had heard of his son's arrival, for he was promptly served with 26 brandies by various members of the band, and the following morning was running round the square on a Fire Call at 0545.

Before we left the U.K. we unfortunately had to say Goodbye to Major Burge. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a silver miniature



Military Band, Edinburgh 1967.

drum. We once again thank Major Burge for his great interest in the Band whilst Band President and hope it will not be too long before we meet up with him again in BAOR.

That's the lot for this issue, folks, don't forget to tune in to the "Band Notes" in the next mammoth production of Tiger and Sphinx. Keep an eye out for the band on the Tattoos, and in Blighty, because we'll never be far away—Folkestone, 23-29 July; Jersey, 3-10 August; London Embankment, 13-19 August; St James' Park, London, 20-26 August.
MAC MANCHESTER

OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess arrived in Minden over a period of time bringing with it most of its property and both its Queen's Own Highlanders. Lyon tried very hard to leave a token memento with the Scots Guards in the form of a hot plate. The hot plate, however, was graciously returned. Lyon remained behind to get married. Gordon-Steward went to Malta for some leave before facing BAOR and took his wife with him.

Maurauder Mac Stephen drove himself out to Germany. Hardly had he reached Barracks, which is situated a few miles west of Maxim's, when he entered a Battalion Routine Order drawing attention to his authority to visit and, if necessary, inspect any married quarter at any time. He has since been carrying out his right.

Major events in the Mess have been the Farewell Party to 1 RWF, our first film show, and first curry lunch and Scotland's 3-2 victory over England at Wembley. The Mess seems empty now without our Welch friends and if we have any more films like the first, it's likely to remain that way.

We left behind us Burge, Chancellor, Michie and Scott. Charlie has left us for good after 32 years' service and is now running Cultvbraggan. The other three, like most of us, are still plodding on.

People seldom come back to see us if they can possibly avoid it. One person, however, who has is Peter Graham. Living down the road only a few kilometres away he has paid us a couple of visits. Even yet some subalterns automatically check their pockets, straighten their lovat hose and correct their head-dress when he approaches.

There is, in and around the Mess these days an abundance of foreign cars and HMV Transistor radios on hire from the AKC. The distribution of same is not altogether an even one. There are those amongst us that can afford neither, but possess both. Then there is one Chalky White, who because of his nightly bridge debts and weekly allotment to Meg, possesses neither.

Bill Dawson, Peebles and Taitt have recently returned to the nest. Bill still appears to be a decent, quiet, rational type of chap, but nothing that can't be very quickly changed. Peebles was immediately sent on an APC course before being appointed Food Member.

We look forward to the next three months of exercises and training about as much as our readers look forward to the next issue of this magazine.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The move from Edinburgh to Minden having been successfully completed, we look forward to what we hope will be a long and pleasant tour in BAOR.

The RWF, though rather harassed during the hand-over, due to half their stores still being out on exercises, managed to relax in the evenings and entertained our advance party in no mean way; the final signatures being obtained at the bar.

The change of station finds Sgt "Old Man" Eddie Cameron as Caterer. A little unsure at first, he has now found his feet and as long as they (his feet) hold out, should make a success of it.

Before we had even seen the inside of a 432 we received an invitation to a social evening at HQ II Brigade. The hospitality was such that it would be very difficult for any other Mess to reciprocate. We arrived at Bde HQ to find the "red carpet" below a canvas awning lined with a wonderful flower display. The RSM, PMC, members and their ladies made short work of any restraint on our part and a really wonderful evening ensued. The buffet was almost on a par with the one produced for our Dargai Ball last year and brought pleasurable comments from the ladies. The Dance Section of our Military Band provided the more modern music, whilst Pipers played for the Reels, etc. Both RSMs showed such nimble hoofs at the eightsoomes, some of our younger members were heard to comment that they themselves had many good years ahead of them yet. The Conga proved to be a feat of endurance culminating in shrieks of fright as the leader led them through a window about six feet above ground level. The success of the evening was such that C/Sgt Bluev Williams did not even attempt to sing "Donald whar's yer Troosers."

One of the first casualties in BAOR was the RSM whose story of having a piece of grit in his eye was received with high suspicion, especially since he was observed heading for home complete with eye-patch and carrying a pot of flowers.

Comings, goings, left behinds and promotions are so numerous that space prevents individual mentions. However, to those who have gone we wish every success in their new posting, to those who have joined us we extend a hearty welcome, and to those who have joined the Mess on promotion we offer our congratulations and hope they will enjoy many years as Mess members. One who must be mentioned, though, is Jimmy Leggat. Having been promoted WO II, he takes on the dual role of TQMS and "hausmeister". He was heard muttering something about "no' even being paid" for his second appointment, a somewhat obscure one which entails being responsible for the behaviour of occupants and damage to the block of flats in which he lives. A neighbour did not help when he said to Jimmy that he hoped he would be able to control his "wains" as he himself couldn't.

There are two Odamit machines in the Mess with which C/Sgt Calum Campbell is forever getting to grips. He puts money in a slot, pulls the handle, waits for a few seconds then exclaims, "Odamit" or similar words. Perhaps the great Odamit will hear him some day and reward him with the Jackpot.

The night before we handed over the Mess in Redford to the Scots Guards those of us who were available said cheerio to Major (OM) Charles Michie, MBE, and Sgt Dinger Bell, REME. Presentations from the Mess were made to each of them and what started out as a fairly quiet evening developed to such an extent that RQMS Bob Hay made his rounds next day hoping apologies were not due from him.

We are looking forward to renewing ties with our acquaintances in the Black Watch who have just returned from a tour in Cyprus and these should prove good material for the next issue.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Due to the lack of facilities in Edinburgh, there has been no Corporals' Club as such for some considerable time.

We are delighted that we have now taken over an extremely good Mess building in our new station, and already there is evidence of keen and active Mess spirit. Our predecessors had obviously been favoured by an artist in their midst who had adorned the walls with murals various, and after scanning the numerous works of art for the presence

of the odd leek, we decided to leave well alone, and get the refreshments in stock.

Corporals from neighbouring clubs were invited to a Games Night. We are not quite sure who won, but a good time was had by all. Anyone who would like a beer bath should make an appointment with Cpl Jimmie Breen, our mess caterer. He will guarantee to oblige at any time, when he is tapping a new barrel. He also stipples the ceiling at the same time. Have you ever seen it raining beer? It does in our Mess sometimes, especially when the gas pressure is connected before tapping the barrel.

Our Saturday Night Socials with the families are becoming very popular and "Chiefy" McLaren and "Mick" Salmon have the honour of being our first carry outs.

BATTALION ATHLETICS MEETING

The Battalion Athletics Meeting was held on 6th May. Considering that it was the first serious attempt at athletics for several years the results were very creditable and suggest that with hard work the Battalion will field a very competent if not strong team this year.

We were lucky with the weather, which was ideal for the athletes if not for the spectators. Lt Carr-Smith, our Assistant RSO from the Royal Signals performed outstandingly in the field events and will be a very welcome addition to the Battalion Team,

as will Pte Winning "D" Company who was impressive over 100 and 200 metres. Our PTIs Sgt Trenham and Cpl Bruce also figured prominently in the pole vault and hammer respectively.

All told the meeting was a great success and it certainly gave the Athletics Officer a good chance to sort out the talent available in the Battalion, before the Brigade Athletics Meeting on 23rd and 24th May, Brigade Athletics Meeting on 23rd and 24th May, when we hope for some success.

The following are the results of the meeting:

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
100 Metres	Cpl Bruce (C)	Pte Winning (D)	L/Cpl Milton (B)
200 Metres	Pte Winning (D)	2/Lt Ross (D)	Capt Van der Noot (HQ)
400 Metres	2/Lt Kennedy (A)	Pte Watt (B)	Capt Kinghorn (HQ)
800 Metres	2/Lt Kennedy (A)	Pte Wright (B)	Pte Wilkinson (C)
1,500 Metres	Lt Hunter-Blair (D)	Cpl Downie (D)	Pte McRae (HQ)
5,000 Metres	Cpl Downie (D)	Lt Hunter-Blair (D)	Pte McRae (HQ)
100 Metre Hurdles	Pte Wiseman (A)	Pte Lawton (D)	L/Cpl Milton (B)
Pole Vault	Sgt Trenham (C)	Pte Lawton (D)	Pte McRae (HQ)
High Jump	L/Cpl Milton (B)	Pte Wiseman (A)	Pte Cardno (B)
Long Jump	Lt Carr-Smith (HQ)	Pte Winning (D)	Pte Marjoribanks (A)
Discus	Pte Adams (B)	Lt Duncan (B)	Pte Ritchie (A)
Javelin	Lt Carr-Smith (HQ)	Pte Farmer (D)	Pte Shearer (A)
Weight	Cpl Bruce (C)	Pte Rutherford (HQ)	Pte Oles (D)
Hammer	Cpl Bruce (C)	Lt Carr-Smith (HQ)	Lt Duncan (B)

Champion Track Athletic: 2/Lt Kennedy (A).

Champion Field Athletic: Lt Carr-Smith.

Inter Company Relay: 1 B Coy; 2 D Coy; 3 C Coy.

Champion Company: 1 D Coy, 154 points.

2 A Coy, 104 points.

3 B Coy, 93 points.

Tug of War Winners: 100 Stone, C Coy.

88 Stone, D Coy.

MARRIAGES

Pte Taylor, W.—Married Josephine Farquhar Laird Spence, at Keith, on 6 December 1966.

Pte Dryburgh, S.—Married Margret Pringle, at Kennoway, on 12 December 1966.

Sgt Anderson, A.—Married Irene Mary Lumsden, at Edinburgh, on 17 December 1966.

Pte Seivwright, A.—Married Maureen Ann English, at Keith, on 17 December 1966.

Pte Gall, D.—Married Jane Owen, at Great Yarmouth, on 23 December 1966.

Cpl Clark, W.—Married Jessie Isabella Forbes, at Edinburgh, on 30 December 1966.

Pte Shearer, A.—Married Margaret Smith, at Buckhaven, on 31 December 1966.

Pte Murphy, A.—Married Aileen Patricia Cattanch, at Aberdeen, on 31 December 1966.

Pte Sutherland, I.—Married Rosalyn Mary Cooper, at Huntly, on 7 January 1967.

Pte Edwards, B.—Married Janet Beveridge Haldane Dalglish, at Edinburgh, on 27 January 1967.

Sgt Easson, J.—Married Emily Mary Thom Webster, at Keith, on 28 January 1967.

Pte Buchanan, W.—Married Elizabeth Cuthbertson, at Edinburgh, on 28 January 1967.

Pte Williams, J.—Married Pearl Campbell Niddrie, at Aberdeen, on 28 January 1967.

- Pte Elrick, J.—Married Elizabeth Anne Sutton Oldfield, at Arbroath, on 4 February 1967.
 Pte Burnett, I.—Married Nancy Agnes Tynam, at Glasgow, on 17 February 1967.
 Pte Norrie, A.—Married Christina Wright, at Edinburgh, on 18 February, 1967.
 Pte McInnes, C.—Married June Robertson, at Huntly, on 25 February 1967.
 Pte Gow, W.—Married Christine Margaret Thompson, at Chester, on 11 March 1967.
 LCpl Scott, J.—Married Maureen Mitchell, at Aberdeen, on March 1967.
 Pte Mair, A.—Married Margaret Thomson, at Edinburgh, on 11 March 1967.
 LCpl Stewart, I.—Married Joyce Innes, at Aberdeen, on 18 March 1967.
 Pte Kinnon, C.—Married Carol McKenna Rankin, at Paisley, on 18 March 1967.
 Pte Mathieson, A.—Married Margaret Isobel Rennie, at Kinneff, on 18 March 1967.
 Pte Tannerhill, B.—Married Elizabeth Melville Porteous, at Newbattle, on 21 March 1967.
 Pte Melville, J.—Married Joyce Henderson, at Buckhaven, on 25 March 1967.

BIRTHS

- Pte Gill, W., son (Michael Ewen), on 22 December 1966.
 Pte McGill, W., daughter (Anne Marie), on 2 January 1967.
 Pte Rust, R., son (Ian Gordon), on 3 January 1967.
 Pte Dixon, J., son (Paul) on 9 January 1967.
 Cpl Reid, G., daughter (Kathleen Joyce), on 14 January 1967.
 Pte Dent, C., son (Douglas Charles), on 16 January 1967.
 Pte McPherson, M., son (Michael William), on 18 January 1967.
 LCpl Anderson, G., son (George John), on 21 January 1967.
 Pte Carroll, B., daughter (Lesley Ann), on 23 January 1967.
 Pte Nisbet, J., daughter (Maria Elizabeth), on 24 January 1967.
 Lieut Cumming, A. M., daughter (Emma Marian), on 27 January 1967.
 Cpl Breen, J., daughter (Norma Dorothy), on 31 January 1967.
 LCpl Bond, J., son (Julian Walter), on 5 February 1967.
 Cpl Reid, G., son (Gordon), on 13 February 1967.
 Pte Flynn, E., son (Robert Edward), on 18 February 1967.
 Sgt Kerr, J., son (Colin), on 21 February 1967.
 Pte Florence, R., son (Stephen), on 24 February 1967.
 Pte Morrison, M., son, (Andrew John), on 24 February 1967.
 Cpl Chalmers, L., daughter (Fiona Anne), on 25 February 1967.
 Cpl Philip, R., son (Grahame Robert), on 26 February 1967.
 Pte Macrae, B., daughter (Helen Ann), on 1 March 1967.
 LCpl Allan, J., daughter (Gillian), on 6 March, 1967.
 Pte Fyfe, N., son, (David), on 7 March, 1967.
 Pte Anderson, W., daughter (Carol Lynn), on 9 March 1967.
 Pte Rutherford, R., daughter (Shirley Anne), on 10 March 1967.

- Pte Mortimer, I., daughter (Kelsie Lea Richmond), on 11 March 1967.
 Pte Parry, J., daughter (Michelle Maggie), on 16 March 1967.
 Pte Rapley, M., son (Paul Anthony), on 23 March 1967.
 Pte Wood, G., son (George Gordon), on 28 March 1967.
 Pte Christie, D., daughter (Clare Helen), on 8 April 1967.
 Pte Cruickshank, A., son (Andrew Johnston), on 25 April 1967.

AFTER THE WAR

the air it was still there wasnt a sound
 the taste of death still hung all around
 the heat of blood roared up from the ground
 and even the seas an the rivers were brown
 after the war

the sky it was filled with the cries of the dead
 an the screams of the souls whod lain there an bled
 an even the stones were coloured bright red
 as i stood there alone with my heart filled with dread
 after the war

an i said to myself why am i left alone
 when the rest of mankind is withered an blown
 an even the song of the birds is silently gone
 an death is the victor who sits in the throne
 after the war

an i walked down the road with my heart in my
 hand
 an i stared at the place where i once saw the band
 with the signs "ban the bomb" who in turn were
 banned
 an now with the rest were as scattered as sand
 after the war

an from a few places there still rose the smoke
 where the flames like mans mind had slowly been
 broke
 an disrupted the world in a shattering stroke
 an i laughed at the thought of the evillest joke
 after the war

an then in the distance i spied a lone face
 the only sad remnant of the poor human race
 sides myself then i ran to the one living place
 in the whole of the universe in the wide bounds of
 space
 after the war

an we walked on together the girl by my side
 till we reached the first place where the world had
 died
 an with single intent we both knelt down and cried
 at the thought of the end of mans most selfish pride
 after the war

then we walked on again without once turn back
 for we both saw together that we had to face facts
 there was no place or time for us to retrace
 as we walked down the road the sun came up black
 after the war

L.S.G.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE DEPOT

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel A. T. C. Brown, Gordons.
 Adjutant: Captain I. C. Purves-Hume, A & SH.
 Regimental Sergeant Major: WO I G. Ross, QO Hldrs.

EDITORIAL

The last quarter has seen the arrival of spring and smaller squads. Those at present undergoing training are Ypres, Mons and Arras, names are taken from the battles of the Great War. It was at Mons that the firepower of the British Infantryman first established its devastating effect on massed infantry attacks. The British riflemen though heavily outnumbered, held up the German advance for several hours, enabling the withdrawal to proceed in a more orderly way. Ypres was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and it was here that gas was used to support massed German attacks. Here too was fought one of the great air battles of the war, with aircraft "dog-fighting" viciously above. Arras also saw bitter fighting and here again the struggle was repeated with infantry advancing in orderly lines into almost certain death from machine-gun fire.

We have continued the practice of keeping a squad at camp for a month, but, as the accommodation problem has now somewhat eased the present

squad will be the last to be away the full month, as in future it will be a two-week camp. The squad at camp continue their field training, with field firing, close quarter battle exercises, tactics, and finally their endurance training exercise in the area of the Lairig Ghru, Balmoral, or Blair Atholl Estates.

The number of new recruits has dropped quite sharply and this is causing some concern. This is probably due in some measure to the delay in publishing the White Paper on the future role and strength of the Army and we hope that the intakes will soon pick up again.

The largest number of Gordons are in Ypres Squad, with Lieutenant Ord as Platoon Commander, and Corporal Murdoch as Training Corporal. They are progressing well and are all looking forward to joining the Battalion in Minden.

A question nearly always asked by the recruits is, "Are we going to Aden?" This is the main thought about their tour with the Battalion, and one has to persuade them that a tour in Germany is just as important as in Aden or Cyprus.

The next Depot Open-Day will be on Saturday, 22nd July. We hope to attract large numbers of visitors, and there will be a Passing Out Parade, followed by displays, and we hope that all friends and relations will come and give their support.

The month of April saw the establishment of the new TA, and we were asked to help with the training



Gordons of Malaya Squad.

Back Row (l. to r.): Pte Hubbard from Fyvie, father and brother-in-law served in the Regiment. Pte Mackay, Glasgow. Pte Skene from Aboyne, has brother in Regiment. Pte McCutcheon, Dundee. Front Row (l. to r.): Pte Full, Glasgow, best shot GPMG. Corporal Green. Pte Dent from Glenkindie best shot SLR, has two brothers in the Regiment.

of the new recruits who undergo a two weeks' training course. We were inundated with nearly 70 recruits who were very keen, and they were given the usual Army treatment of a handout of kit, rifle and bayonet all in one armful. However they all enjoyed themselves, and their final two days were spent at Barry Buddon, and a night exercise against Ypres Squad. The difference at the end of two weeks was quite remarkable, and they must have pleased RSM Freeman who visited them in camp.

The Depot Permanent Staff have been firing their annual Classification Practices, and also completing their ten-mile march. We had some ideal weather for both the shooting and the marches but the former did not quite reach the expected standards. In all it has been a successful quarter and we look forward to the future with confidence.

TRAINING COMPANY

Company Commander: Major E. S. Orr Ewing, Black Watch.

Company 2 i/c: Captain G. Latham, QO Hldrs.

Company Sergeant Major: WO II A. Wheatley, QO Hldrs.

Training Subalterns: Lt. R. D. Ord, Gordons, Lt. M. L. Melville, BW; Lt. M. A. Reddish, A & SH; Lt. I. Lorimer, QO Hldrs.

Training Staff: Sgt Pattullo, Sgt Melville, Cpls Mackie, Murdoch, Green, Young, McDonald and McKinnon.

The last four months have seen the Passing Out Parades of four Squads.

Cleve Squad, commanded by Lt. G. H. Peebles, passed out on 14th January, when the salute was taken by Colonel G. W. Bruce, TD, DL, Honorary Colonel 3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA). There were only two Gordons, Privates Nicol and Campbell, on parade. The latter has a brother serving in the 1st Battalion.

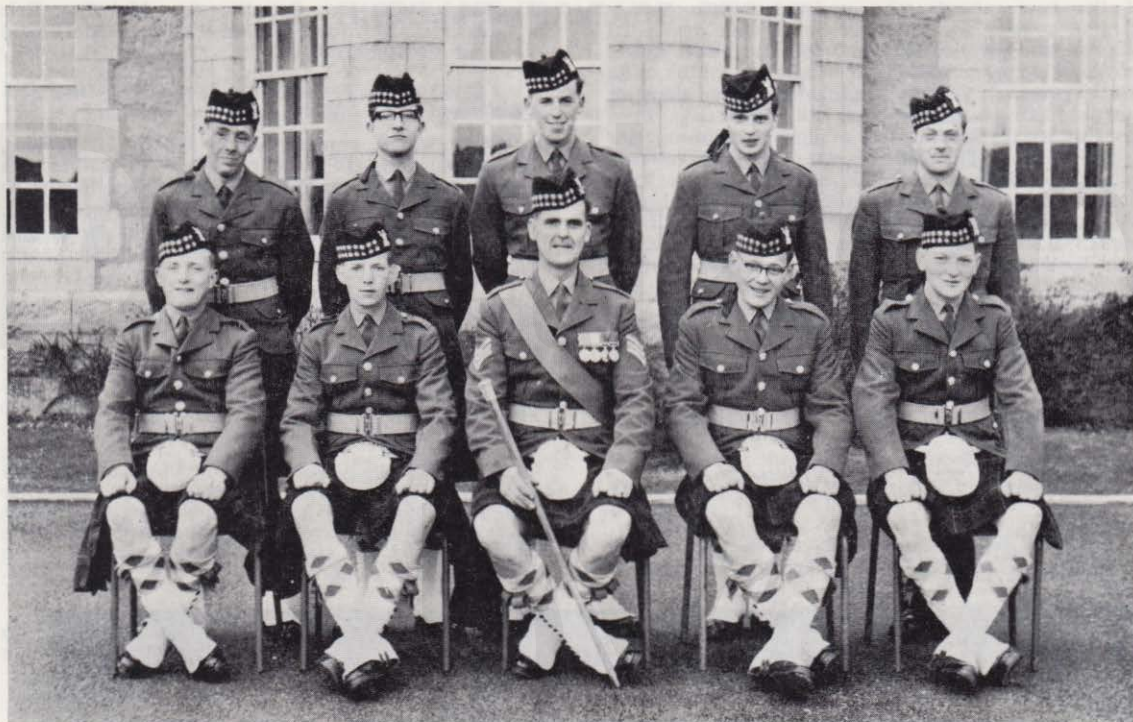
Malaya Squad, commanded by Lt. M. A. Reddish, A & SH, passed out on 4th February, and the salute was taken by Lt. Colonel J. B. Fortune, MC, Black Watch. Six Gordons passed out in this Squad, and of these Private Dent won the prize for the Best SLR Shot, and also the Delgatie Cup. Private Full was the Best GPMG Shot.

Tripoli Squad, commanded by Lt. D. C. Monro, QO Hldrs, passed out on 4th March when the salute was taken by Lt. Col. T. B. C. Slessor, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Among the twelve Gordons on parade was Private I. Lovie who won the prize for the Best SLR Shot.



Gordons of Tripoli Squad.

Back Row (l. to r.): Pte Henderson, served 3 years in 3rd Battalion, Laurencekirk. Pte Crombie from Port Glasgow. Pte Garden, Aberdeen. Pte Feighery, Peterhead. Pte Forsyth from Fraserburgh, has a brother in the Regiment. Pte Christie, Banff, has a brother in the Regiment. Front Row (l. to r.): Pte Anderson, Portlethen, father was Sgt in Regiment. Pte Nokes, Manchester. Pte Lovie, Cults, was best shot SLR. Pte Syme, Ballater. Pte Wilkinson from Ashton, Lancs. Pte Thow, Aberdeen.



Gordons of Ipoh Squad.

Back Row (l. to r.): Pte Meldrum, served 2 years in 3rd Battalion. Pte Simpson, Turriff. Pte. Brown, Aberdeen, best recruit, uncle Major (QM) Michie, cousin Cpl Murdoch. Pte Cowie from Banff, winner Delgatie Cup. Pte Trotter, Aberchirder. Front Row (l. to r): Pte MacNamara, Aberdeen, father served in Regiment. Pte Keith, Strichen. Sgt. Pattillo. Pte Gauld, Oyne. Pte McPetrie, Aboyne.

Ipoh Squad, commanded by Lt. P. J. Church, A & SH, passed out on 1st April. The salute was taken by Major General F. C. C. Graham, CB, DSO, DL, Colonel The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Eight Gordons passed out, of whom Private Brown won the prize for the Best Recruit, and Private Cowie the Delgatie Cup.

We said goodbye to Sgt Greenhowe on his departure to the Battalion and in return welcome Sgt Melville. We also welcome Cpl McKinnon who has just completed his Hythe course.

The Military Band of The Gordon Highlanders again delighted so many people at the Passing Out Parade of Cleve Squad, and we hope that they will be able to play for us again some time. This was Lt. Peebles' last squad and we hope he enjoys his time with the Recce Platoon.

Our next draft of Junior Leaders are due at the end of April and they will be joining Ypres Squad at camp for a fortnight of field firing and training. Cambrai Squad is now being formed and should start training on the 1st May; Cambrai was one of the first battles in which tanks were used in the First War.

In general, the training of recruits has benefited from the extended training period, and we can spend more time in the field. The field firing is now nothing new to the soldiers when they join their Battalions and this is an advantage. One sometimes

wishes for longer hours of darkness in the summer, as there is really not enough time at night to do much night training. If only we could stop the



*Passing Out Parade, Cleve Squad
Colonel G. W. Bruce and Bandmaster Harper.*

clock for an hour or two at night during the summer! We are hoping to be able to introduce the recruit to night work much earlier on in the programme, and this is in the form of nights out in the open, sleeping in "bivvies", or "rough".

On the whole we have had an interesting and enjoyable quarter and hope to have our large squads again in the winter.



Best Recruit, Ipoh Squad

Private Brown receives his prize from Major General F. C. C. Graham. Right—Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. C. Brown.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Since our last notes the Company has continued to run the administration side of the Depot at its usual 100%, despite the change of a few faces. We bid welcome to Pte W. Ross who has taken over as Sports and Ammunition Storeman from Pte J. Mortimer, who is leaving with his wife and family to join the 1st Battalion, in Germany. We wish them the very best of luck in their new environment and also hope that Pte Ross has a happy sojourn in Aberdeen.

Another new face at the Depot is that of L/Cpl A. Seivwright who has joined us as a Regimental Policeman. He claims that he is enjoying life and we hope that his predecessor, Pte. T. Gorman, is doing the same in Germany.

Congratulations to Cpl D. Falconer on his promotion and to Pte G. Boyle on his marriage. We all wish Pte and Mrs. Boyle every success and happiness for their future together. Cpl Falconer continues to work unflinchingly under the overflow of Part II Orders and other documents he has to cope



*Best Recruit, Ipoh Squad
Private Brown, Aberdeen.*

with, not to mention taking over the Chief Clerk's chair when he decides to go for a round of golf with the RSM.

During the first fortnight of April we welcomed the first squad of the new TAVR II personnel for their basic training. This kept CSM G. Allen, BW, and L/Cpl J. Gibson, our Company office staff, busier than usual and they do admit, increased their problems and headaches, but it was all in a good cause.

Our MT NCO and Driver in Chief, Cpl G. Garden, continues to keep his vehicles running in perfect condition although at times he can be heard shouting for a Landrover which he claims REME Workshops have taken over in order to instal a new engine. No doubt it will turn up again.

On the other side of the house, Csgt A. Varley, our tailor, can be seen every day hunched over his sewing machine endeavouring to shape a kilt or jacket for some unwieldy Jock. Aply assisting in the "Q" side at the Depot is RQMS R. Strachan, who inevitably can be found either in his office hidden behind mountains of vouchers or in the Clothing Store explaining to some young soldier the way his fangled equipment should be worn.

Buried away in the Sergeants' Mess one can find Pte J. Bonner, now assisted by Pte. N. Stewart, who has temporarily joined us from the School of Infantry, Warminster. No complaints have been heard from the Senior Ranks so it is assumed that they



Quartermasters Staff

Back Row—Ptes J. Ross, J. Mortimer, D. Dickson, Sgt D. Williams, Centre—Messrs. G. Riley, N. Smith, Miss G. Beattie, Messrs. J. Quade, A. Murray, J. Urquhart. Front—C/Sgts H. Docherty, A. Varley, RQMS R. Strachan, Lieutenant Colonel (QM) A. W. Brown, M.B.E., C/Sgts J. Dunbar, E. R.ice, Sgt A. Bibby.

are holding their own. In the Officers' Mess, Pte W. Park continues to keep up the good work. He has been joined by Mrs. Park and we hope they both enjoy their stay in Aberdeen.

To conclude, everybody is enjoying life to the full in the Silver City and hope that all our friends with the 1st Battalion have settled down to their new role with the minimum of problems. From all here to all in Germany "Best Wishes and Good Luck."

THE OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess has now recovered from the shock of having a woman living in the Mess! We welcome our new arrival, Heather Mugford, who has come to join the Aberdeen Recruiting Office (Mini-skirts have now replaced mini-kilts). Life has once again settled down and we are preparing for the Cocktail Party in May.

Visitors have included General Graham and Colonels Fortune and Slessor who all took the salute at Passing Out Parades. Others who have visited us were Nigel Oxley who quite enjoyed being "at home again", David Irvine, needing a haircut and muttering something about sore throats and women. We were also visited by two officers from the Staff College, Majors Thapa and Musonye, of the Royal Nepal Army and Kenya Army respectively. They were taken on a conducted tour of the Highlands by Sandy Bell and George Latham, visiting one of the distilleries where they sampled some of the whisky.

April saw the departure on leave of the Junior Soldiers' Company, and Sandy Bell, Neil Forteath and Alan Duncan went off on leave too. Alan appeared one day in a new Rover 2000, alas not his but his mother's car. Don Mahoney has also left and we hope he enjoys his new job in Canada.

Our fishing season has been exciting, with an 18½ lb. salmon, taken by the Commanding Officer at Crathes. Since then, several other fish have been taken and we hope for a good season.

Golf and George Latham are very much the tea-table topic, George has been in devastating form, with his handicap, and has played regularly with Brigadier Duncan and Colonel Moir. The weather, too, has been very mild and has enabled us to play more golf than usual at this season.

The Food Member, Mike Reddish, has taken great pains to introduce a varied menu, and we have had such things as corn soup. To one of us it is just "mealie" soup, but it is very tasty all the same. We have now acquired a new cookery book, and there is always something new on the menu.

Donald Monro has now left us, and we wish Donald and Judy a very happy future together. Guv Wallace has also left to begin his Para-course and we hope he enjoys it. Peter Church has returned to his Battalion, and our last visions of "Grouse" were of "Man's Best Friend" perched on top of a mountain of luggage on the front seat. We hope they reached Plymouth safely, and will miss "Grouse" walking off with our slippers or shoes as he sometimes did.

We wish two former members of the Mess good luck on their forthcoming marriages. To Roddy Kinghorn and David White we say Good Luck and hope that you will visit us sometime.

The Mess bridge four are still having their regular sessions, and we have seen Eddie Orr Ewing, George Latham, Sandy Bell and Jamie Mackintosh Walker playing well into the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Jamieson and his staff have been as busy as ever, and they now have an automatic dishwasher to help them.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Oh! where, tell me, where, have all the good scribes gone? Yes! it is magazine time again and whilst everybody is stepping gaily on their way I am scratching the head that used to have plenty of hair on it.

I should like to say farewell to two of our old stalwarts, B'ill Freeman and Jock Donald. Heartiest congratulations on your promotion to RSM, Bill, likewise your new and exciting venture, and may the valleys of the Black Watch countryside ring when e'er you decide to exercise your vocal chords. Jock has gone back to his second home, namely Germany, and if his proficiency at the typewriter matches his command of the language he will prove to be a great asset.

Bobby Greenhowe bid his farewell to one and all when he rejoined the 1st Battalion after a most successful tour. Bert Buchan has decided to lay aside his wand of office and join the merry band of technicians in the 1st Battalion and the familiar sight of his bulldog silhouette bearing down upon an unsuspecting individual will no longer be witnessed.

Jim Melville has now settled down after a most hectic and perhaps illuminating fortnight in his endeavour to streamline a squad of TAVR II. Our other fairly recent arrival, Pete McKenzie, caused quite a flutter when he rolled up in a super Rover 90, and one wondered if he had been a PSI in Harley Street at one time. He still smokes a pipe but at the time of writing is missing his moustache! No questions, please!



*Farewell to Sergeant Buchan
RSM G. Ross presents a farewell gift to Sgt Buchan.*

Arthur Varley is still exploiting the hidden mysteries of tartan and thread and always seems to produce yet another tartan. I may also add that he is still to be seen carrying a camera on passing out parades. Bob Strachan is occasionally seen during daylight and managed a very rare game of golf when the Mess played the Officers. I should like to mention in the smallest print possible that the Officers' Mess won (no mention shall be made of the margin but the only two that could hold their heads up were the RSM and the RQMS). As the Officers were the hosts on this occasion we partook of curry puffs and lubricant in their Mess.

The social side during the past two months has been catered for and very adequately too, I may say by Andy Pattillo and Pete McKenzie. Between tombola, horse racing, paper chases, hide the thimble and a super tinkers night, they really excelled themselves. For the benefit of all members of the 1st Battalion, "Auld Mac" is still Mess Caterer and can still manage a wee smile now and again.

Visitors have been varied and it is always grand to see a weel kent face again. We must thank Captain Bruce for getting married as this was the reason for the following paying us a visit:— Captain and Mrs. Dunn, Geordie and Phyllis Symon, Ian Mitchell and thingumabob Carter (his name escapes me). It was reported that Jim Hutton paid a visit but it rather resembled a moonlight flitting. Willie Joss came bouncing along one day absolutely full of beans and was raring to have a go in these big iron tractors that they apparently have in Minden. Jim and Isobel Dryburgh came along to a passing out parade one day but owing to the inadequacy of British Rail, their visit was rather short. Peter Cameron took everybody by storm during his week of recruiting in the Granite City and whilst on leave with Anna. Such was his enthusiasm that he even tried to convert members of the Black Watch. He told an amusing story of an encounter he had with a long-haired potential type he met in George Street. Cameron: "Have you ever thought of making the Army your career?" Bohemian type: "Na! Na! Mister; you better buzz off afore the bobbies hae ye up for soliciting!"

Two old timers still in circulation showed their faces the other day. Joe Stacey has joined the recruiting staff at Aberdeen and is on the long service list and I may add that he is still "Gordon daft!" Bill and Sybil Christie are still resident at Fairfield House and send best wishes to everybody.

In conclusion, may I, on behalf of the Highland Brigade Depot Sergeants' Mess, send best wishes to the Mess Members of the 1st Battalion in their new station.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS' COMPANY

Company Commander: Captain A. F. Bell, A & SH.
Company 2 i/c: Lieut N. M. Forteach, QO Hldrs.
Platoon Commander: 2/Lieut A. W. Duncan, Gordons.

Staff (Gordons): Sgt P. MacKenzie, Cpl Stewart, Cpl Shand.

In our last intake in the spring term, seven Gordons brought our strength within the Company to the figure of twenty-eight. As we only expect three Gordons in the next intake, and have none in the leavers age group yet, we expect this figure to hold for some months. The new intake did a six weeks basic training course and then went to the

following platoons:— Band: Johnston; Drums, Colligan and Thomson; Infantry: Fyvie, Duff, Stephens, Chalmers. The infantry platoon is now forty-seven strong.

Gordons were well represented in the Dudgeon Cup in all events, our leading light being Duff in the gymnastics, who also won his weight in the boxing contest. The Cup itself was spoilt by bad weather which cancelled the track and field events,

much to the relief of a few who shall remain nameless, except Mr. Duncan who had been in strict training, and returned some excellent times for the 100 and 220 metres.

We hope next term to have a slimmer and much fitter Cpl Stewart who will be back fully fighting fit. The summer term should be of particular interest, too, as we are hoping to have our camp on the West Coast, and we look forward to an enjoyable term.

3RD (TERRITORIAL) BATTALION

Commanding Officer: Lieut Col R. Bannerman, TD.
Second-in-Command: Major G. Thom.
Adjutant/Administrative Officer: Capt H. Foster, MBE.
RSM: WO I F. W. Tayles.

With the move to our new Bn HQ's home at 80 Hardgate, Aberdeen, completed recently, it is with considerable difficulty that we raise our battered heads above the swirl of the administrative flood to pen these notes..

Our new home, for the main part repainted, is beginning to look lived in, and we are particularly fortunate in having excellent Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

The large Memorial to the Dead of the 4th Bn of the 1914-18 War is now resting in its new place of honour in the main hall at Bn HQ. It is hoped that sometime in the near future, some form of rededication ceremony may be arranged. It is felt that the surviving members of the 4th Bn would be pleased to have this done. The opportunity would then present itself for the presentation of Efficiency Medals and Lord Lieutenant's Certificates which for some time have been held in the Adjutant's safe.

Our "unofficial" Bands are very busy and have a fairly full engagement list—from 19 March to 7 September sixteen appearances are listed. In spite of the many difficulties of survival, morale is high and attendance good. The strength of the Bn other than the Bands is still suffering from the exodus to "D" (Gordon) Coy of the 51st Highland Volunteers, and in consequence is rather depressing.



Sgt and Mrs Fraser received their farewell gift from Major N. V. R. Simpson, TD, OC "A" Coy on 24th March, 1967.

Annual Camp 1967 is arranged for Ripon, Yorkshire, and it is felt that given good weather, an interesting programme and the usual social round-about the Jocks will appreciate that the new system has much to offer and recruiting will pick up again.

Having lost all the Regular soldier PSIs the bulk of the administrative chores falls on the shoulders of our two Territorial Instructors who are tackling all manner of problems in a manner which does them great credit. Guided, encouraged and under the able instruction of our RSM, once the new system has settled down, it is felt that they will



Cpl and Mrs A. M. Rothney (seated centre) at a farewell party in their honour.

manage to play an important part in the training and organisation of the battalion in its new form.

The most pressing need is for more recruits and all ranks have been instructed to be on the look-out for the right type of man who, for various reasons, cannot undertake the more exacting role and commitments of the Volunteers (T & AVR II).

"A" COMPANY (BANFFSHIRE)

Coy Commander: Major N. V. R. Simpson, TD.

2IC: Captain J. Lobban.

CSM: WO II J. Watson.

CQMS: C/Sgt A. Christie.

No 1 Pl (Banff): 2/Lt R. L. C. Chalmers.

Sgt A. Milne.

No. 2 Pl (Keith): 2/Lt J. K. Fowlie.

(also Coy HQ): Acting Pln Sgt Cpl D. Gillies.

No. 3 Pl (Dufftown): Capt D. A. Young.

Sgt G. A. Macdonald.

Our reflections must start with the changes which took place officially around midnight on the 31st March, 1967. Fortunately we had already geared the Company machinery and the change went very smoothly. In fact the Company spirit is such that many have not noticed any significant difference.

Changes in T.A.C.s see us occupying Keith, Banff and Dufftown, having lost Portsoy, Buckie and Aberlour. We are well satisfied with the changes as they give us a fair representation over the County, maintaining our strong ties with old 6th and 5/6th centres. In particular, we have the potential of Banff/Macduff, hitherto an RE stronghold.

Inevitably when undergoing such changes we must lose some of our members for one reason or another. Here we would pen our appreciation to the following.

C/Sgt Milne: Still our civilian storeman, but now the CSM AVR II. He has given and is still giving valuable service to our Company. Our congratulations on his appointment.

Sgt Burgess: He is now working out of the area and has decided to resign and let someone else take over. An unselfish gesture. Sgt Burgess has served in the 5/6th and 3rd Battalions for 16 years.

Sgt Henderson: His length of service is about the same as that of Sgt Burgess. He has accepted a commission in the ACF. In congratulating him, we wish him well.

Departures also included Sgt Fraser on return to the 1st Battalion. He and Mrs Fraser received a presentation at the Company Dance in Keith on 24th March.

The week before the Dance the Company held a Sale of Work, which realised over £105 for Company funds. It was opened by Mrs G. B. Kynoch and attended by the CO. The spirit and success of this venture followed by the Dance augurs well for the future.

Training has been slow to start, but time has not been wasted. The Platoons have been getting their "houses in order" and regular meetings are held at Keith to discuss ideas and problems. In this field Company Officers, senior NCOs and the Coy Clerk, L/Cpl Kellas, have given much of their own time to the problems facing us and it is greatly to their credit that things are shaping so well.

Our thoughts are principally of camp. One week only this year at Ripon, Yorkshire. A hectic week it promises to be. To cover two weeks' training and fire our annual classification course!!

We welcome the following newcomers to the Company: 2/Lt R. L. C. Chalmers to command Banff Platoon; Capt D. A. Young back from HQ Coy; Ptes Wilson, Glennie, Cormack, Leslie and Mann from Banff RE; Sgt Macdonald who started to go to Cadets but came back!!

We congratulate Sgt Christie on his promotion to Colour/Sgt and L/Cpl Lippe on his second stripe. By the time these notes are published Cpl Gillies will have filled the vacancy as Keith Platoon Sgt.

Our first training W/E is to be at Banff with a subsequent visit to Dufftown.

"B" COMPANY

Coy Commander: Major W. M. C. Horne.
2IC: Captain J. C. Hutchison.
Platoon Commanders: Lt D. P. J. McCarthy.
2/Lt I. R. S. Forbes.

CSM: WO II W. A. Main.
CQMS: C/Sgt A. M. McWilliam.
Pl Sgt: Sgt A. Gerrie.

On Friday the 13th January a Dinner and Dance was held in the Pitfour Arms Hotel in Mintlaw. Approximately one hundred and twenty members and wives attended. Prior to the dance, moans were heard from the more superstitious members about "Black Friday" being "an awfu' nicht for a dunce". However, after being served with a splendid dinner and raising their glasses in a toast (which occurred quite frequently) the "mountain dew" certainly slackened them up and dispelled their forebodings, turning "Black Friday" into a memorable and very enjoyable evening.

The gaiety and revelry that rocked the hall was sufficient proof that everyone enjoyed themselves, especially our former Company Commander, Major Gray who would insist on buying rounds of drinks at about £12 a round.

The dance ended at 1 a.m. and from the hired buses could be heard strains from "The Scottish Soldier" and "The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre" as they sped homewards throughout the North East.

Due to reorganisation we say farewell to Major J. M. Gray who has left us to command AVR II Coy, Gordons. Also to Lts Hardie and Barclay and the other ranks of the Company far too numerous to mention here. We wish them luck in their new role. We also say farewell to WO II A. Sim who has left the TA after twenty years' service, the last three of which he served as CSM "B" Company. Also to Cpl A. Rothney, thirty-five years a Gordon Highlander. A POW in the last war, Cpl Rothney has three sons at present serving with the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders. Cpl Rothney was "B" Coy Storeman and Barman at the "Broch" and winner of the King George V Cup at the 1964 Wadinschaw in Aberdeen.

He was, along with Mrs Rothney, presented with a canteen of cutlery from the Company on his retirement, but in his own words in true Gordon spirit he says, "Och ah'll aye be aboot".

Welcome to Major Horne, our new Coy Commander, who joins us from 278 Sqn RE; also to Cpl A. Massie, L/Cpl R. Glennie and Pte A. Warrender, all ex 278 Sqn RE.

Our welcome mat also goes out to Lt McCarthy, 2Lt Forbes and WO II Main all Gordon Highlanders.

Due to the reorganisation of the TA now AVR we, the humble compilers of the Company notes, are in doubt as to training schedule for this year. Four man-training days are allotted to us. Two before and two after annual camp, the camp being for only eight days. We shall have to wait orders from above to see how these training days will be used.

We congratulate Cpl and Mrs D. Ferguson on the birth of a son, Kevin, on 2nd May 1967.

"C" COMPANY (MEARNS PLATOON)

2/Lt T. G. MacRae.
Sgt L. J. Cooper.

Our last notes were written under the heading of "D" (Mearns) Company. Now after the reorganisa-

tion we have been reduced to Platoon strength. We are not depressed by the "demotion"—in fact, we are "raring to go". Alas, however, we have lost some long serving members of the old Company. Our PSI, CSM Jim Dryburgh has returned to the 1st Bn—we trust you are "switched on" and still smoking! CSM Taylor, a civilian full-time again, along with Sgt Smith, Cpls Murray, Legg, Scott and many others too numerous to mention. To them all we say "Thank you for work well done, join us for a drink sometime". C/Sgt Cahill leaves us to join the Volunteer Royal Artillery in Aberdeen. To him we say "Good luck in your new appointment".

At present we are using Laurencekirk as our HQ, meeting on the first and third Tuesdays each month to do some "square bashing", map reading, etc. For this we get paid. On the other Tuesday nights we have a "Club Night"—no pay! These nights look like being even more popular than the official training evenings! L/Cpl McGuigan is setting up a miniature range club which he hopes will attract the local youth. Pte Alistair Henderson is organising, with the help of his brothers, football matches with local youth organisations. Pte Bill Strachan has already arranged one darts match against the Crown Hotel Team—the writer gathers that there are to be many more of these nights!!

By having these "Club Nights" we hope to increase both our strength and our bar sales!!

We hope that any former members of the Gordon Highlanders will pay us a visit in Laurencekirk on Tuesday evenings or on Sunday evenings when we have a **small** bingo session. At present we are unable to announce our bar "opening" times for Stonehaven—we hope to do so in our next Notes.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

At long last Battalion Headquarters and "C" Coy are settled in their new home at the Hardgate, Aberdeen. The move was phased over a month, and we

needed all of that for the large amount of stores and equipment that had to be moved. At one time, Woolmanhill looked like "Cocky Hunters" with a few able bodies trying to sort order out of chaos. There were some old stalwarts reluctant to say good-bye to Woolmanhill, namely Jock Ritchie and Adam Riley. Both have served on the premises for 30 years or so. For the younger element we welcome the change, Hardgate being far larger, is better in most respects. Our new Mess is first class with a proper built-in bar at one end. Jock Ritchie is down to our level now, the bar at Woolmanhill being raised six inches above the floor made him tower above us all. Social evenings are under way and we are holding a Social each Saturday with a larger event on the last Saturday of the month.

All our Regular PSIs have left us and the only Regular soldier in the Bn now is the RSM—Frank Tayles. I hasten to add how pleased we all are that he is still with us for his knowledge and know-how along with that of the Adjutant will keep us ticking over administratively.

We welcome our two full-time Territorial Instructors, namely John Mitchell and Jack Clifford. Both are "weel kent" faces in the Bn, and we wish them the very best in their new appointments.

Three well-known faces share the Drill Hall with us. They are WO II Alec McDonald, S/Sgt Ginger Ross and Sgt Girling, all of "D" Coy 51st Highland Volunteers. The main thing we have in common is that we are all Gordons, so we have a happy relationship.

Looking ahead, our Camp this year is from the 8th-15th July, at Ripon in Yorkshire. It is a good Camp in an interesting part of the country. Although we only have eight days, in the true North East fashion we will enjoy ourselves.

Finally, to our friends with the 1st Bn, now in Germany, do visit us when you come home on leave. You will be made most welcome.

51ST HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS

By the time these notes go to press we will have come officially into being. The 1st of April (all fools day) has been chosen, by the powers-that-be, as our birthday! In Tay Street, Perth, we have inherited a Drill Hall which does very well as a Battalion Headquarters; albeit with a lack of garage and training facilities for our HQ Company; but which has the advantages of being "centrally" placed as far as air, rail and road (in motoring time) are concerned; has windows from which we can cast a line on the Tay, and a golf course about 150 yards away as the crow flies!

We are incredibly scattered—with 8 companies at Wick, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Liverpool and London. But the Volunteers do lie within 30 miles of these locations. If one transported our spread on a map of Europe we would have one company at the outskirts of Berlin, another at the outskirts of Paris, a third in the Harz Mountains and a fourth in Antwerp, whilst Bn HQ and two other companies would be in the Bielefeld/Minden area.

Our strength is fairly good, at about 85 per cent of Establishment and we number over 1,000 all ranks. Recruiting is going ahead well.

The much vaunted new kit is slowly trickling in—but we have NOT yet got the new range of wireless

equipment (but we do boast the 42 Set) nor have we more than a training scale of the new weapons. However, an impressive array of vehicles has rolled into the Drill Halls.

We have been given a really good send off (not only by the local press) but by all the TA Battalions who have contributed much in the way of funds, silver, and property for our messes and the PRI. There is much local goodwill evident and we feel confident that we have local support, particularly from employers.

For our part we aim to help the T & AVR III (the 3rd Battalions) and the Cadets as much as we can; but the bill is enormous. For instance we have been affiliated to over 100 Cadet Units!

The Battalion (less a company plus a platoon) are to camp from the 1st to 15th of July at Sennybridge in South Wales. This camp will be a great opportunity for the various elements of the Battalion to get to know each other and to shake down and should be also a chance to practice our operational role, which is a very real one. This role is, basically, to provide the fourth Company for the Regular Highland Battalion in BAOR and to provide a Battalion plus a two-company group elsewhere in Rhine Army's Order of Battle for tasks, which will be of a motorised infantry nature.

Our "D" (Gordon) Company is to be supplemented by a Platoon from "A" (Black Watch) Coy for its camp in Germany from 24 July to 5 August, with the 1st Bn The Black Watch who will be at Vogelsang (a Belgian Battle Camp between Aachen and Cologne) and Minden. It is also planned that this Company will spend two days with 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders and a weekend with our London Scottish Company in London!

Other events on our calendar are a camp in Norway from 12th to 20th for a party of 70 men and a full scale review by no less a personage than Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein—on the North Inch at Perth on October 7th, on the occasion of the 51st Highland Division's Alamein Reunion. This will be our first public appearance.

Elsewhere will be found fuller accounts of Company doings so these notes will be kept short. It may, however, interest readers to see the Battalion Staff List:

CO: Lt Col I. R. Critchley, BW.
 2IC: Major K. M. Walker, TD, BW(TA).
 Trg Offr: Major W. J. O'Connor, QOHldrs.
 Adj: Captain A. W. Scott-Elliot, A&SH.
 QM: Major A. A. C. Glass, MBE, BW.
 IO: Lt J. Halford-McLeod, BW(TA).
 MTO: Lt P. Stirling-Aird, BW(TA).
 RSO: Captain J. A. G. J. Robb, BW(TA).
 RMO: Major R. G. Clark, RAMC(TA)
 Major A. J. Mutch, RAMC(TA).
 PMR: 2Lt D. B. Elder, RAPC(TA).
 Captain D. Campbell, RAPC(TA).
 Padre: Captain The Rev. R. Buchanan Smith,
 RACHD(TA).
 HQ Coy Comnd: Captain D. G. M. Mowatt,
 BW(TA).
 A Coy Comd: Major R. A. Davidson.
 2IC: Capt R. M. Reid.
 SP Pl Comd: Lt A. Murdoch.
 Pl Comd: Lt R. M. Kennedy.
 Pl Comd: Lt L. D. Heriot-Maitland.
 Pl Comd: Lt J. B. Connors.
 B Coy Comd: Major G. T. Dunnett, TD.
 2IC: Captain S. R. Stafford.
 Sp Pl Comd: Lt Easton.
 Pl Comd: Lt I. A. N. Geater.
 Pl Comd: Captain Rowe.
 C Coy Comd: Major R. J. Aitken.
 2IC: Captain J. M. G. Grant.
 Sp Pl Comd: 2Lt R. M. Fraser.
 Pl Comd: Lt A. C. Welsh.
 Pl Comd: Lt H. M. Robertson.
 Pl Comd: Lt J. A. L. Young.
 D Coy Comd: Major J. M. Gray.
 Sp Pl Comd: 2Lt A. W. Simmers.
 Pl Comd: 2Lt P. R. Barclay.
 Pl Comd: 2Lt I. Y. Hardie.
 E Coy Comd: Major R. F. Wilson.
 2IC: Captain J. S. Wilson.
 Sp Pl Comd: Lt I. A. Sim.
 Pl Comd: Lt C. H. C. Graham.
 Pl Comd: 2Lt F. L. O'May.
 Pl Comd: Lt F. Mackay.

The London Scottish Coy Comd: Major J. Anderson.

2IC: Captain J. A. Clemence.

Sp Pl Comd: Lt A. Borthwick.

Pl Comd: 2Lt Pinner.

Pl Comd: Lt R. D. Holliday.

Pl Comd: Lt A. Getley.

V Coy Comd: Major J. C. Bateman.

2IC: Captain I. Paterson.

Sp Pl Comd: Lt M. Dickie.

Pl Comd: 2Lt C. E. E. Sloan.

Pl Comd: Lt T. K. Gow-Smith.

Pl Comd: Captain C. G. Davidson.

"D" (GORDON) COMPANY
51st HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS
T & AVR II

OC: Maj J. M. Gray.

2IC: Capt M. A. Gill.

CSM: WO II A. Milne.

CQMS: C/Sgt R. Davidson.

PSIs: WO II A. McDonald.

C/Sgt L. Ross.

Sgt G. Girling.

Sp Pl

Lt A. Simmers.

Sgt C. G. A. Prati (A/Tk Det).

Sgt N. A. Warden (Mor Det).

No 1 Pl

2Lt I. Y. Hardie.

Sgt R. W. Beadie

No 2 Pl

2Lt P. R. Barclay.

Sgt W. Hadden.

At this stage of the Company's existence there is little to record. Although the new Volunteer Battalion did not officially form until 1st April 1967, training began at the end of January and has continued apace ever since; and consequently the changeover from TA to T & AVR II went very smoothly.

Recruiting, too, has gone well. Initial numbers were disappointing, totalling only sixty-seven all ranks out of an establishment of one hundred and fifteen. At the time of writing, however, the strength stands at ninety-four, and recruits are continuing to come in at frequent intervals.

The news that this Company had been chosen to camp in Germany this summer was the fillip needed to inject tremendous enthusiasm into training. So far this has been largely confined to weapon training (which has seen some much needed improvement) but time has to be found to get the signallers, drivers, cooks and support weapon personnel started in their specialised fields. Time has also been found for the Platoon Commanders to attend the TA Course at Mons, and for Sgts Beadie and Hadden to attend a Weapon Training course at Hythe. All five received very good marks on these courses and we offer them our congratulations.

We also congratulate Lt Simmers, WO II Milne, C/Sgt Davidson and Cpls Graham and McKen on their promotion to these ranks.

On the "Q" Side, stores have been rolling in—stores hitherto heard about but seldom seen in TA circles, and new weapons have been arriving at frequent intervals. For the older members of this Company at any rate, grown cynical on broken promises in the past, the Store and Armoury are now a wonder to behold, and cynicism is giving way to confidence in an exciting future.

CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS

EDITORIAL

The period under review extends from 1.1.67 to 31.5.67. With the festive season successfully behind us, there was a flurry of activity to arrange training and programmes for the new year. After several false starts, the training programme, incorporating all Company requirements, was drawn up.

Rehearsals for the parade for the Freedom of Cape Town City were laid down but, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. The date is at present 10.10.67. We hope that this, the third time of changing, will not again be changed.

A tragic incident necessitated further changes to the programme. The State President elect, the Rt. Hon. T. E. Dönges, was suddenly taken ill and all parades and rehearsals for his inauguration as State President were cancelled. The unit had been ac-

All ranks are now facing up to the challenge of training alongside 1st Bn The Black Watch at Vogel-sang, although in some respects regretting that the opportunity to get to know the remainder of the Battalion is lost, at least for this year. These regrets are probably no more than conventional, however. Nobody has actually been heard to say that he would prefer to be going to Wales.

corded the honour of forming part of the processional troops — the only Citizen Force Regiment accorded this honour. We wish Dr. Dönges speedy recovery.

In April the Regiment had the honour of entertaining the Minister of Defence, the Hon. P. Botha, at the Annual Birthday Dinner held at the Army Officers' Mess in Wynberg. The toast at the dinner was proposed by Commandant J. Bick of the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) — the first serving Citizen Force officer to do so.

OFFICERS' MESS

This year has started off with us again having our numbers depleted by the temporary, if somewhat extended, absence of various officers. Major O'Brien has been sent to the Eastern Cape by his employers and FD CT Wright has likewise been despatched into the hinterland. Our QM, FD CT Ron Goveia is a "write-off" since commencing his MBA course at the University of Cape Town. Anyway the show must go on!

Captain Dennis Lloyd, an ex-officer, addressed our March mess meeting and his words certainly served as an excellent tonic to the officers present and in particular the "younger set". We all too seldom hear from our old sweats in serious vein.

April, our birthday month, saw the usual celebrations. A very pleasant get-together was held at the C.O.'s home in Rosebank after the church parade. As always, it was a family affair and comfortably intimate. Even the dog relaxed on this occasion!

On the 28th we had our formal Mess Dinner at the Army Officers' Mess, Wynberg, and an excellent time was had by all. Guest of Honour was the Minister of Defence, the Hon. Mr. P. W. Botha, and judging from the hour of his departure, he thoroughly enjoyed himself. This gathering was remarkable for the wonderful atmosphere of cordiality that existed throughout. Another noteworthy aspect of this birthday dinner was that the toast to the Regiment was proposed by Comdt. A. J. Bick, UCD Officer Commanding the Cape Town Rifles, our sister unit.

The period covered by these notes has seen two weddings in the Mess. Heartiest congratulations to FD CT Mike Mayne and his charming new wife, Paddy. We hope to be seeing a great deal more of you. Likewise to FD CT Bill Tooley and Betsy, our very best wishes for the future.

With the results of their respective Captains' Courses now published, we offer our congratulations to FD CTs Pat Tate, Barry Ventris, Sydney Burger and Carl Scheppening. Now the wait on Pretoria.

We take this opportunity to bid welcome to Cadet Officers Mike Allen and Ian Bernardi. Best of luck for the future.



Pipe Major J. C. Marwick.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The beginning of the year's activities started with the AGM in February. All the offices were enthusiastically filled with a good sprinkling of new blood from the junior sergeants. We look forward to an active and fruitful year.

The March Mess Meeting welcomed Major C. O'Brien as the new Mess President occasioned by the promotion of Major Albertyn to CO. We look forward to long and happy contact with Major O'Brien in this office. The same Mess meeting said farewell to Pipe Major Marwick, WO IIs De Reuk and Roberts and Sgt Stock. Pipe Major Marwick is one of the ever-diminishing band in the regiment who are entitled to wear war medals. His leaving after 19 years will be felt in more ways than one, for those who wear war medals have been tried and proven. All four of these members have given more than their fair share of service to the regiment, the mess and the country. The mess is all the richer for having had them as active members and will be the poorer for losing them — no mess can afford to lose four such senior ranks as these at once. They were all presented with silver beer mugs to remind them of the numerous pints quaffed in the congenial company of the Sergeants' Mess. The mess hopes they will visit us whenever they can in the future.

Sergeant Paddy Pidgen who is visiting the U.K. in connection with his work was given a letter of introduction to any sergeants' messes he manages to visit during his stay. Our very best wishes go with him for a pleasant journey, a successful stay, many new friends and a safe return.

The annual cricket match between the Officers' and Sergeants' messes took place in March. This year, however, history was made, for the officers won for the first time. The star players in the sergeants' mess was Sergeant Alan van Blerk who changed our defeat from being ignominious to "fairly close." Strange to say, Alan is not a regular cricketer and has not played cricket for quite some years now. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by the families of all who were there. An incident occurred during the first half of the game when Staff Gibbs found that he was the 12th man on the sergeants' side on the field. Although his presence would not have influenced the result one iota, it was generally agreed it would be "not cricket" for him to stay on so he had to march off the field with as much dignity as he could muster.

The April mess meeting witnessed the welcoming of the following new sergeants recently promoted: Sergeants Downton, Sutherland, Warne and Silva. Substantive sergeant Koen and Jacobsen who are posted to the regiment from the Corps of Signals and Sgt. Marriner on transfer from the Transvaal Scottish were welcomed separately. May all seven have a long and happy stay in the sergeants' mess.

On Friday, 21st April, the sergeants' mess held their annual dinner at the Hotel Metropole in honour of the regiment's 82nd birthday. The CO and Adj. and their ladies were our guests of honour. The CO proposed the toast to the regiment. The theme of his speech was mainly retrospection and introspection. He touched on the origins of the Gordon Highlanders and later the Cape Town Highlanders and reminded the assembly of our proud record of service being second to none, that only

one regiment in South Africa exceeded our number of battle honours and no other regiment equalled the number of nineteen. He concluded by reminding us that in all activities in which the regiment engaged we only did things the right way and not the easy way. This aspect of perpetuating regimental pride was just as important as our pride in past battles fought.

On the 22nd April, Sgt. Alan van Blerk took unto himself Jean Berril for his wife. A contingent of the sergeants' mess and the C.O. were present at the wedding. We all enjoyed the service and the hospitality at the reception afterwards. It is only fitting to recall here that Jean made a charming and demure bride. May the two of them enjoy their married bliss.

Sunday, 23rd April, was a warm, sunny autumn day that only Cape Town knows and this was the setting for the regimental birthday parade. Before the regiment marched to the St. Andrews Church, WO II Roberts was decorated with the John Chard Medal for 12 years service in the regiment and in the South African Defence Forces.

On Sunday, 30th April, HQ Coy. attended a birthday service at the Union Congregational Church which was founded in 1813 by 90 people of which 27 were soldiers of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders. The tradition of Highlanders being associated is perpetuated by a contingent of the Cape Town Highlanders attending the birthday service of the church every year.

HQ COMPANY

To the skirl of the bagpipes 1967 was greeted by a fair representation of Officers and NCOs of this Company attending the Unit's Hogmanay Ball held at S.A.S. Unity. Many of the participants arrived home in glorious sunny weather, feeling as if old age had crept upon them overnight.

During this first quarter company training got off to a good start with enthusiasm coming from all ranks.

TRANSFERS.—Welcome to FD CT Donald Fraser-Buchanan on his appointment as Mortar Platoon Leader, Sgt. A. Marriner, ex Transvaal Scottish.

PROMOTIONS. — To Temporary Sergeant, Corporals C. S. Downton, N. A. N. Sutherland, R. B. Warner; to Temporary Corporal, Rfn. C. T. Hamer-Garbett.

MARRIAGES.—Congratulations to Sgt. A. Van Blerk and Miss Jean Berril who were recently married.

"A" COMPANY

As mentioned in the March edition of the "Tiger and Sphinx," "the year 1967 looks like being an interesting one with training on IS basis and the three weeks camp in our home command" — this is indeed the case.

The first two parades of the year took the form of lectures on IS. Topics discussed were guerrilla warfare, temporary bases and patrolling.

At long last we have moved to our new Headquarters in the Wynberg Military Camp. This is a great improvement on our old Battalion Headquarters, although there is still much to be done to

get everything shipshape and to our entire satisfaction.

The Company took part in the annual Church Parade. Although the climatic conditions were against us this Church Parade was a satisfactory one.

Finally, we offer out hearty congratulations to FD CT Bill Tooley on his recent marriage and to Cpls. C. I. Bernhardt and M. R. Allen on their appointments to Candidate Officers. We wish them the best of luck in their future with the Unit.

"C" COMPANY

After a rather belated start as a result of our enforced change in the Battalion's training programme, Company activity has warmed up to quite a tempo.

Apart from the normal range shoot and annual church parade, training has been orientated towards preparation for the Battalion Bivouac and, ultimately, camp in August. Aspects being covered are based on the Internal Security (Rural) course being conducted at the South African Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. The numerous "new" subjects have resulted in considerable interest being shown. FD CT Geoff Mispion completed the Infantry School course during the latter stages of last year and this experience has proved invaluable in conducting various practical exercises — notably tracking and jungle lane-firing. The latter certainly accentuated the vast difference between range and field conditions. We were somewhat surprised to find that we were able to leave the training area without meeting numerous irate farmers making claims for "recently departed" prize cattle. Maybe, after all, the chaps on the LMG course did exaggerate that fusilade from the rifle course.

Early in April the Unit moved into its new home at Wynberg Military Camp. Although not as central as the old HQ, the vastly improved facilities from an administrative point of view have made the move more than worthwhile. Once various problems, such as outside lighting, have been solved, it will be second to none as a HQ.

Early in February, Major "Bud" O'Brien's appointment as 2 i/c of the Regiment became official. "C" Company offers its heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Advantage is also taken of this opportunity to welcome Cadet Officer Ian Bernardi into the Company. From what we have seen since you joined us, Ian, this is obviously going to be a happy and, more important, fruitful association.

A hearty welcome is also extended to our latest intake of members. Although one of the smallest intakes to date, this only makes you that much more welcome.

With the move out to Wynberg, the extra effort this involves and the stepped up training programme with its resultant greatly increased administration, it is fitting to register our appreciation of the very stout effort made and being made by S/Sgt Ronnie Castle. A considerable amount of his work has to be done at home in his own time quite apart from the fact that his work compels him to stay much later than others on parades. Staff, this is realised and greatly appreciated. Our sincere thanks.

REGIMENTAL PIPE BAND

After seeing Hogmanay in with due ceremony it was our sad duty to say farewell to two stalwarts of the Band who, between them, have rendered nearly 30 years service.

PIPE MAJOR JAMES CRAIGIE MARWICK

After 19 years service Pipey has decided to hang up his pipes, or whatever it is Pipe Majors do when they relinquish command of their charges.

On the 4th October 1928, young Jimmy joined the Gordons as a boy piper — following in the footsteps of his father who, in his time, was a Sergeant in the Regiment. On the 8th December 1930, the lure of the regular army proved too great and Piper Marwick joined the 2nd Bn, with whom he served until he joined the Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders in 1949. Older members will recall that the 2nd Bn. were in Malaya at the time of the fall of Singapore, and on the 15th February, 1942, Jimmy Marwick, together with his colleagues, were imprisoned by the Japanese. Repatriated in 1945, he continued to serve with the 2nd Bn until 1949 when he took up his appointment as Pipe Major of the Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders.

At this stage, the Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders Pipe Band was non-existent, but due to the enthusiastic endeavours of the Pipe Major, a band was soon formed which was able to perform the many duties required of it.

Apart from his duties as Pipe Major, Jimmy was able to conduct Highland Dancing classes, and was often called upon to adjudicate at Highland Gatherings throughout the length and breadth of South Africa. During 1960 another facet of his character was brought to light when, during a national emergency, he ran the Bn. kitchens to such good effect that there was considerable thought given to the idea of reverting him to the rank of Sergeant Cook!

There must be few Regiments in the South African Army who have had the services of a musician who, during his career, was awarded the British Long Service Medal and the John Chard Medal, and although we might appoint another Pipe Major, it will be a long time before we can really replace James Marwick.

To Jimmy, Rita and their family we extend our very best wishes for the future and our sincere thanks for the sacrifices which they have all made during their long association with this Regiment.

SGT SEYMOUR STOCH

After nine years' loyal service our bass drummer, Sgt. Seymour Stoch has decided for business reasons to leave the Regiment. His conscientious efforts on behalf of the band and the Regiment he served so well will not soon be forgotten, and in the greater responsibility of caring for Jocelyn, whom he married recently, we wish him long life and happiness.

GENERAL

As a result of the re-organisation which has taken place, several ex-members have re-joined the band in an honorary capacity, and to them and our new members we extend a hearty welcome. Amongst new appointments is that of Lieut. Tate to Band Officer, a post to which he is admirably suited in view of his services as bugler, drummer and drum major before being appointed to commissioned rank.

GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

London Branch

Since our last notes we have been unfortunate in losing the services of our Welfare Officer Mr E. H. Austin who has retired from his post at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and gone to live in Norfolk. We all join in thanking Bunny Austin for all the hard work he has put in to help our less fortunate members, and especially the aged and the widows. It is our sincere hope that he will find his new home a pleasant spot and live to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

The Hon. Secretary was present on Sunday, March 19th at the Laying up of the Colours of the 1st Bn. The London Scottish in St Columba's Church. There were many Ex Officers and O.R.'s of The Gordons present who had passed through both Regiments during their service. The London Scottish now becomes part of the 51st (Highland) Volunteers.

We are fortunate in procuring the services of ex RSM Ian Rodger as our new Welfare Officer and he may be contacted at 80 Vincent Square, SW1. Our next meeting will be the AGM on 15th June at which the social programme will also be fixed. Any ex members of the Regiment will be welcome at the London Scottish Headquarters especially on Monday evenings and we are always ready to welcome new members to our branch.

Hawick Branch

The Annual Dinner of this Branch was held in the Victoria Hotel, Hawick, on 11th March 1967, and was attended by 20 members under the Chairmanship of Lt Col A. T. Curle, DSO, OBE, who expressed a warm welcome to all members and in

particular to three new members, Major David Ord, MBE, now retired to the Borders, Mr Colin Hutcheson and Mr John Purves.

The toast of the Regiment was proposed by the Rev. Ewen G. S. Traill, MC, and that of Absent Comrades by Mr George Middlemas, while Mr David Gibb and Mr Bobby Wallace contributed songs with Mr H. Welch at the piano. No Hawick Branch Dinner would be complete without Dr Andrew Simpson continuing in his role as a story teller. Major David Ord and Mr Bobby Anderson reminisced on some of their memories while serving with the Regiment and the official part of the programme was concluded with Mr. Alex. Aitken proposing the Vote of Thanks.

Regular Forces Employment Association

During 1966 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 11,118, which was 82 per cent of all of those who registered at the Association's 43 Branches, which cover the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 4,149 were from the Army and 24 were from The Gordon Highlanders.

The Association is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service, and gives all its services free.

If when you get home you have mislaid the address of the Branch of this Association in your area you should apply at any big Post Office or to your own Regimental Association. They will give it to you.

RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN ROBIN FOGG ELLIOT, M.B.E., D.L.

At the last Meeting of the Regimental Council in June, it was announced that Captain Robin Fogg Elliot is to retire, on medical advice, from his post as Retired Officer Grade III at Regimental Headquarters.

Notice of this would have been given to readers in a more prominent and appropriate position in the Journal, but for the fact that this issue was already on its way to the printers and that this sad event is due to take place in October, before production of the next issue.

Robin Fogg Elliot is well known not only to generations of Gordon Highlanders but also far and wide outwith the Regiment through his activities in connection with historical research and museum collections.

He joined the Regiment in 1924, serving with the 1st Battalion until 1934, when he was invalided on half pay. Undeterred by disability which would have immobilized anyone unequipped with a unique will-power and determination, Robin achieved a degree of mobility which enabled him in 1939 to be appointed Administrative Officer at the Regimental Depot. There he served, with, in 1952, a change in title to that of Retired Officer Grade III, until 1960 when

the Depot closed. Since then he has held the same appointment at Regimental Headquarters.

As we mentioned on the occasion of his being awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List 1966, some 43 years devoted service to the Regiment might well be deemed in itself worthy of recognition, however vaguely comprehensive a term this may be. When examined in detail, however, one begins to appreciate what this has involved. The Regimental Association, the innumerable Trusts, Charities and their attendant accounts, the Regimental Journal and an outstanding Regimental Museum with one of the largest medal collections in the country, are only some of the responsibilities he has carried over the years.

The Regimental Council directed that it be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting, on their behalf, that news of his impending retirement would be received with the greatest of regret by all Gordon Highlanders, who would wish to express their very deep and sincere gratitude to Robin Fogg Elliot for so many long years of service to the Regiment. To this we feel you would all wish us to add our very best wishes to him and to Betty for continuing happiness, so well-earned by them both.

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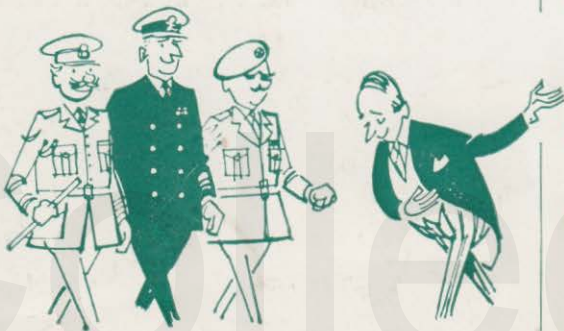
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